

Hafa Adai!

LB does not anticipate reducing personnel's work hours. **PAGE 3**
No changes yet in regulations for Health Network Program. **PAGE 5**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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CPA executive director resigns

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will be without an executive director in the next few months following the resignation of executive director Christopher Tenorio, who is expected to let go of his post come August.



Tenorio

Tenorio officially announced his resignation from CPA in a public statement yesterday, saying he submitted his resignation with an effectivity date of May 1. The CPA board

prevailed on him to remain in his position until August.

"...I...submitted my resignation to be effective May 1, 2023. However, for the sake of

See CPA on Page 4

Accidental fire torches car

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has determined that the fire that engulfed a car over the weekend was a result of

an accidental blaze.

DFEMS determined that the fire was accidental and there were no fatalities due to the fire or accident.

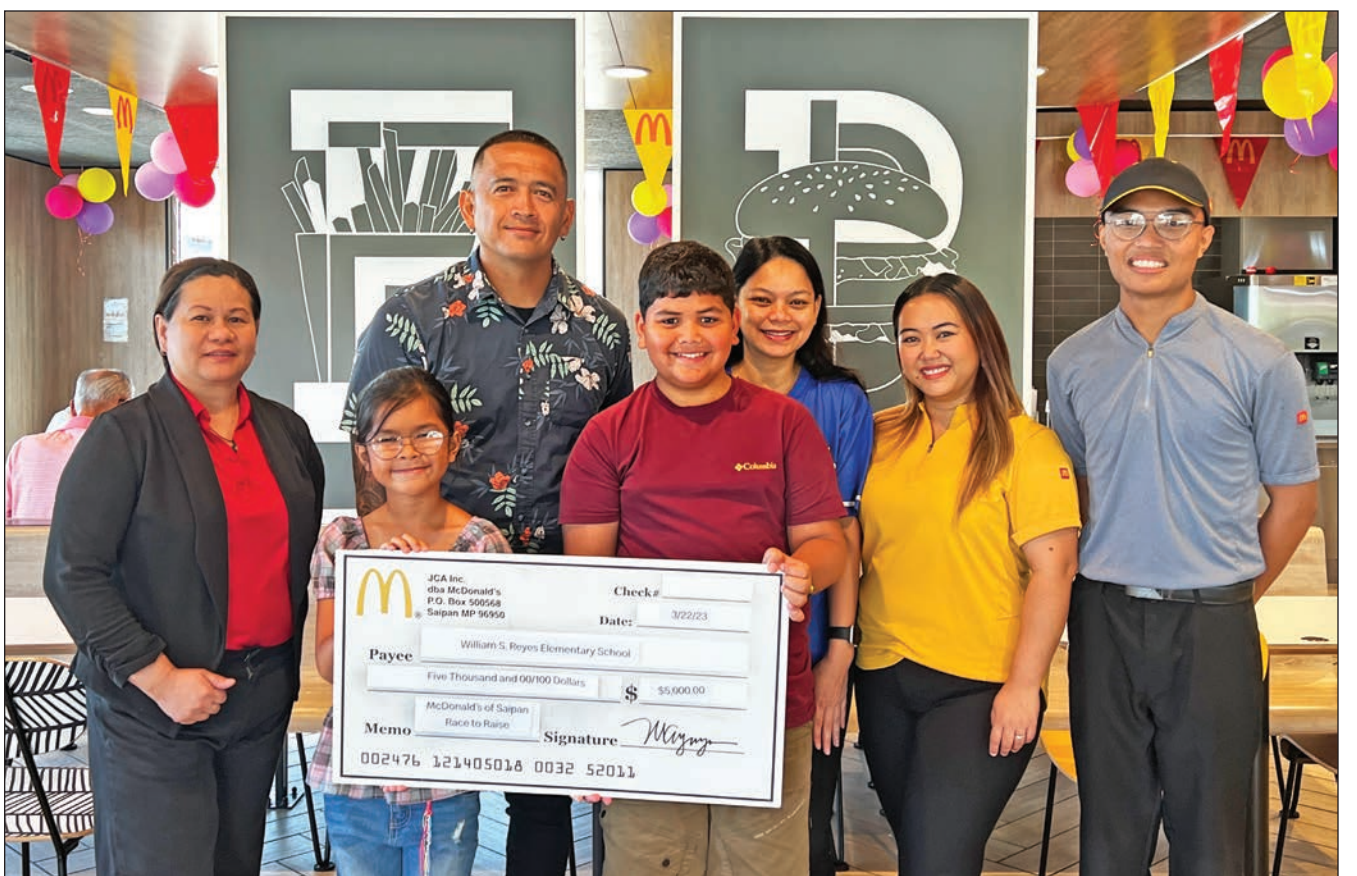
"Further examination of the vehicle and fire pat-

See FIRE on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel suppresses the fire on the vehicle.

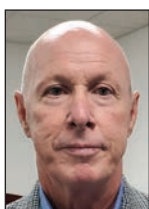


WSR WINS MCDONALD'S PROMO

Representatives of the William S. Reyes Elementary School pose with McDonald's of Saipan executive Natalie Mable Ayuyu-Glenn, McDonald's Chalan Lau Lau general manager Joyce Asistores, and McDonald's 2022 Employee of the Year John Michael Navarro at the main restaurant yesterday after the school was named the winner of McDonald's "Race to Raise" campaign. WSR won \$5,000.

Story on Page 2

CHRISTAL MARINO



Peavey

Peavey willing to serve as CUC chief

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr., who is currently the acting executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.,

said he is willing to serve the position in a permanent capacity, but it would depend on the discussion and negotiation.

Peavey, who is the deputy director for CUC's electric power systems,

See PEAVEY on Page 4

Engine for CUC Power Plant 3 arriving April 4

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 1.5-megawatt engine that will serve as an emergency

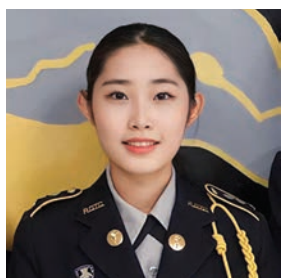
backup system to power the water wells at the Saipan airport will arrive on Saipan on April 4, 2023, according to acting Commonwealth Utili-

ties Corp. acting executive director Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr. The new engine will be installed at CUC's Power Plant

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'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule' takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
191

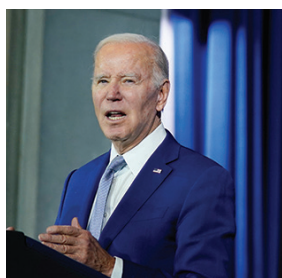
INSIDE



LOCAL

Marianas High School senior Sydney Lim is awarded a full Quest-Bridge scholarship at WashU.

PAGE 2



NATION

President Joe Biden is establishing national monuments on more than half a million acres.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Academy Award winning actor Tom Hanks is named the keynote speaker at Harvard.

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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

WSR school wins 1st place in McDonald's Race to Raise

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After collecting over 600 tickets under their name in a three-week span, the William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa was named the first-place winner in McDonald's "Race to Raise" competition, giving the school the top prize of \$5,000. McDonald's of Saipan presented the cash prize to school representatives yesterday morning at the restaurant's main location in Chalan Lau Lau.

The "Race to Raise" fundraiser, held as part of Mc-

Donald's of Saipan's 30th anniversary in the CNMI, was intended to show the restaurants' support for the CNMI Public School System, education, and all students. The campaign began on March 1, 2023, and continued until March 19, 2023. During that period, McDonald's patrons who purchased meals worth \$15 and up were encouraged to drop their receipt in a drop-box designated for the school they wish to support. In the end, it was WSR Elementary School that received a total of 602 receipts, thus winning the first-place prize.

"The whole WSR family and community is very

excited and happy that we won," said WSR vice principal Jocelyn Manibusan after the announcement "The prize money that we won will go to our incentive programs for our students and our teachers. You know, to reward them for the successes that we have in school. For example, we have a reading initiative, we have the teacher's appreciation that is coming up, so all of this will go back to the school for both teachers and students."

Manibusan also extended her thanks to the students' parents and to McDonald's of Saipan. "We would like to thank our parents. We really used social media, we used

our PTSA meetings to encourage our parents to bring their children here and to...buy stuff from McDonald's. We also want to thank our parents that supported their students and made them perform during the anniversary celebration on Saturday. To the McDonald's company, we thank them for this opportunity. It's really great that they're reaching out to the community, and getting the community involved and sponsoring activities like these. It encourages the school community to come together, most especially for...extra funds, funds that can be used...for student initiatives and for teacher prizes...."

Parent Teacher Student Association president Marlon Cabrera, who was also present, shared his gratitude as well. "To the management and team of McDonald's, thank you for having this 'Race to Raise.' For all the other schools that participated, I want to congratulate them too, most especially our parents and staff that came here every other day, or everyday to feed their family—thank you, thank you so much."

He said the campaign was not only fun, but was a great way to show support to one's school. "As the PTSA president, I try my best to do everything for the school

to improve it, and this was a great opportunity."

Joe Ayuyu Sr., vice president for McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, said, "McDonald's of Saipan values integrity, community, and family, and we are passionate in the young generation to learn and develop important skills for their bright futures."

As a way of further showing its support of schools, McDonald's announced that all other participating public elementary schools in the CNMI, including Tinian, and Rota, who did not win will still receive a participation prize of \$500.

MHS student awarded full-fledged Questbridge scholarship to WashU

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Out of 17,900 applications nationwide, Marianas High School senior Sydney Lim was one of 75 who were awarded a full-fledged QuestBridge scholarship up to four years at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. This 17-year old will head off to college this fall.



Lim

Lim said she was nervous at first while applying. "[The] college [application] process was truly mentally draining and tiring. I spent countless stressful days of anxiousness and sleep deprivation,

but when I opened the letter, everything was worth it."

Out of 17,900 QuestBridge applicants, 1,755 Finalists were selected as Match Scholarship Recipients at 48 college partners, and Lim was one of 75 students nationwide who matched with Washington University. The scholarship that covers the full expense of college attendance, including tuition, room

and board, travel expenses, and books and supplies.

With Washington University constantly ranked among the Top 20 universities in the United States, boasting a 10% acceptance rate for the Class of 2026, Lim said she is both thankful and excited for the opportunity. "I am looking forward to meeting new people from all around the world, seizing new oppor-

tunities, and being exposed to new ideas that would quench my thirst and curiosity," Lim said. "I am truly grateful to Questbridge for opening up this amazing opportunity to me and everyone else who has encouraged and helped me go through the process."

As for what she will be majoring in and her goals for the future, Lim is excited about exploring subjects like biology and neuroscience during her undergraduate years "so that I can pursue my career in psychiatry, hopefully, back on Saipan."

 **PET OF THE WEEK**
Coco and Iris

Meet Coco and Iris, two adorable female puppies who are looking for their forever homes!

Coco is a playful and energetic puppy with a beautiful black coat and brown paws. She loves to run and play fetch, and is a smart puppy who is eager to please. Coco is already showing signs of being a great companion and would make a wonderful addition to any family.

Iris is a sweet and affectionate puppy with a light brown coat that is soft to the touch. She loves nothing more than cuddling up on the couch with her humans and is a bit more laidback than Coco. Iris also loves to play and explore and would make a great companion for someone looking for a loyal and loving pet.

Both puppies are up-to-date on their vaccinations and have been well socialized with people and other dogs. They are ready to find their forever home with a loving family who will give them the attention and care they deserve.

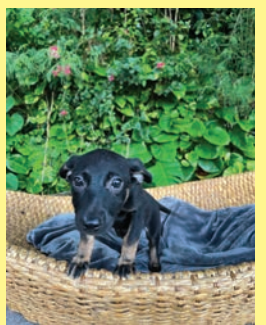
They are currently in foster homes but if you're interested in adopting Coco or Iris, please don't hesitate to contact the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido for more information. They are both wonderful puppies who would make great additions to any family!

Shelter hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. Contact them at (670)-234-3647 (DOGS). You can also make your way to the shelter to check out more dogs available for adoption!




Coco

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Iris

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, founder of the Saipan Humane Society, in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. Whether you are looking for a guard dog, lap dog, hiking buddy, or playful puppy, they most likely have the dog for you!

LB does not anticipate reducing personnel's work hours

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Absent any scaling down in local revenue, the Legislative Bureau does not anticipate any reduction in their personnel's work hours, according to LB director Perry John P. Tenorio.

In his report on revisions to the Appropriations and Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2023, Tenorio noted that 100% of the Legislative Bureau's personnel cost is funded by local funds.



Tenorio

In reviewing Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' revision to the fiscal year 2023 budget law, Tenorio said the Legislative Bureau is grateful that he spared the bureau and the CNMI Youth Congress from any reduction.

Tenorio's report, dated March 13, was addressed to House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) and Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

He said the governor's revised projections retain the fiscal year 2023 budget law's funding level—\$2,455,134—for the bureau's personnel, operations, and utilities, and \$42,559 for Youth Congress' personnel and operations.

Palacios is cutting down the work schedule of some Executive Branch employees to just 72 hours starting April 24, 2023, and through the end of fiscal year 2023.

Citing that the fiscal challenges the CNMI faces impact the whole government and the community, Palacios urged the Legislature and Judiciary, as well as autonomous agencies of the government, to similarly implement cost-containment measures, particularly with respect to operations or personnel that were funded in whole or in part by the American Rescue Plan Act in fiscal year 2023.

The bureau has also postponed the hiring of personnel.

"With some clarity now, we are having to review our budgetary priorities and assess the progress toward achieving them, considering that half of the fiscal year has already passed," the director said.

Tenorio disclosed that of the 34 positions for the bureau, 29 are filled and five are va-

cant, and only one position for the Youth Congress has been filled.

According to their analysis

of the bureau's filled positions, they have estimated that the cost per pay period is \$70,407, which amounts to an annual

cost of \$1,830,575, he said.

Tenorio said their immediate concern is the underfunding of the bureau's utilities

budget and the operating budget for the Youth Congress. In this regard, he said, the bureau is requesting consideration in

making the adjustments.

On ARPA-related matters, Tenorio said the bureau was

See LB on Page 4

20/20k

UNDER DEALS QUALITY USED CAR

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<p>2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON SE STK: 22RN006</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$9,995 \$75 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2016 MAZDA3 STK: 16P421</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$13,995 \$105 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2019 HYUNDAI KONA STK: 8H054E</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$17,995 \$168 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>
<p>2019 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 STK: 19HS1004</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$12,995 \$97 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT STK: 20R292</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$17,995 \$168 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON LIMITED - STK: 18P345A</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$19,995 \$150 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>
<p>2016 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER STK: 19P376A</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$14,995 \$122 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2017 KIA SPORTAGE STK: 17P422</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$18,995 \$141 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON STK: 22H161A</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$19,995 \$150 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>
<p>2017 TOYOTA COROLLA STK: 17P370</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$16,995 \$127 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2017 TOYOTA COROLLA STK: 17P474</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$18,995 \$141 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2018 TOYOTA COROLLA iM STK: 17P370</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$19,995 \$150 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>
<p>2018 NISSAN ROGUE STK: 18P393</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$17,995 \$168 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2016 MITSUBISHI LANCER STK: 17P496</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$19,995 \$150 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2017 TOYOTA RAV4 STK: 21D106A</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$19,995 \$150 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>
<p>2016 BUICK VERANO STK: 17P505</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$17,995 \$168 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2016 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER STK: 22H219A</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$19,995 \$150 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>	<p>2018 MAZDA CX-5 STK: 18P397</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> SALE PRICE \$19,995 \$150 </div> <p><small>PER PAYCHECK</small></p>

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Women-led group seeks to help victims of domestic violence

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Seeking to further empower women and advocate against domestic violence in families, the ABIGAIL organization announced that they plan to extend their services and are inviting members of the community to get involved in their mission.

During the organization's Act Like a Queen banquet in Chalan Kanoa last Saturday, ABIGAIL organization president and co-founder Fernie Rey said the young nonprofit organization was born right in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when so many cases of domestic violence occurred as a result of the enforced lockdown.

Rey said reading about these inci-

dents prompted her and her husband, Manuelito Rey, and their associates, Jim and Jane Turnbull, to start the organization. Rey said their vision is to "build communities of strong healthy families where everyone has an opportunity to have a life free of oppression." ABIGAIL's mission then is to empower women and their families through the building of healthy family relationships and supporting victims of domestic violence.

As of now, Rey said they have more than 10 volunteers, and their services are limited at the moment to preventive services, but she does hope to expand these to include counselling, workshops, and a food program catering to those in need, not necessarily just women, but also

families. They are also open to more people getting involved.

At the moment, they are partnering with the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Rey said, and they're sending their volunteers to undergo training with the coalition in order to teach ABIGAIL volunteers how work with individuals in these complicated situations.

"Helping our community cannot be done by just one organization. It cannot be done by few. We need to collaborate, we need to bring in different stakeholders to keep our community safe," Rey stated.

When asked what was behind the name Abigail, Rey said the nonprofit organization wasn't just named after

a Biblical character, Abigail, but each letter in the name stands for something: "A" for advocacy; "B" for brilliance; "I" for Intelligence; "G" for good morals; "A" for affirmation; "I" for instruction; and "L" for love.

And although it may appear that way, ABIGAIL is not a religious organization, Rey said; it aims to help anyone. "Volunteers are not limited to those who go to churches. ... They don't need be a member of our church."

Rey said the organization is separate from their church, but the church is just currently providing a temporary facility for them. "This

organization's support should be for everyone who are victims of domestic violence, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion, and social status." She said the organization is open to all those who want to volunteer or are in need of some kind of assistance.

Rey said that ABIGAIL's is open to anyone who wants to volunteer their time, or place, whether to conduct a workshop where skills can be taught and learned; or donate food or money to push the cause forward.

For inquiries or more information on how to get involved, contact Rey at femiery.abigails@gmail.com.



ABIGAIL volunteers and supporters gather for a picture after their "Act Like a Queen" banquet last Saturday at Pepoy's Restaurant Chalan Kanoa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CPA

From Page 1

continuity, the [CPA] board asked me to stay back for now until we address all of our single audit compliance issues. Additionally, they asked that I work on critical projects so that when I leave, there will be continuity with the next director. So, with that being said, they have amended my effective resignation date to August 2023," Tenorio's statement said.

This was confirmed by CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, who said that Tenorio, who has been with CPA for 28 years, has given his all in his role as CPA chief and will continue to do so until his last day at CPA.

"Chris has been working for CPA for over 28 years. He started off

his career at CPA as an accounts clerk and has worked himself up the ranks over the years. He is a good man who tries his best, and has given his best. He has given his personal commitment to the board that he will continue giving his 100% until his last day at CPA. Until then, there's a lot of work to be done and we are going to keep working hard to keep CPA moving forward," she said.

Tenorio has been the CPA executive director since 2016.

In an earlier appearance before the Senate's Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee, Tenorio said that CPA's revenue has drastically decreased in the past few years and nearly all of CPA's airline partners suspended their flights to Saipan at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ID-19 pandemic.

Fortunately, he said, CPA received over \$2 million in federal funds in 2021 to help them weather out the storm, he said. Unfortunately, those funds have been stretched as far as possible, but CPA still faces a massive decline in revenue, with the CNMI still trying to regain its economic footing.

Tenorio said CPA fears that, if no subsidy can be provided for CPA to continue operations, it may have to soon increase its airport rates just to get by, possibly risking the loss of airline partners.

Tenorio is also participating in drafting CPA's letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation to request supplemental funds to help CPA stay afloat without risking the loss of its airline partners.

PEAVEY

From Page 1

said in an interview Tuesday that the CUC board has yet to offer him the executive director's position, but he is eligible for the position in terms of qualifications.

Two court directives from the U.S. District Court for the NMI—called stipulated orders—require CUC to hire qualified individuals in key positions, including the executive director.

The minimum qualifications for the executive director post are to have a master's degree in management, engineering, finance, or public administration; or a bachelor's de-

gree in engineering and registration as a professional civil, mechanical, or electrical engineer; and 10 years of senior management experience in utility operations.

In 2017, then-governor Ralph DLG Torres and the CUC board petitioned the federal court to temporarily waive the qualification requirements in the stipulated orders in order to hire Gary P. Camacho as executive director, which is how Camacho got the post. He recently resigned after Gov. Arnold I. Palacios stated that he intends to have Camacho replaced.

Last Feb. 21, CUC board chair pro tem Janice A. Tenorio designated Peavey as acting executive director until further noticed.

Peavey has over 42 years of expe-

rience in the utilities industry. Prior to coming here in late 2022 to work with CUC as deputy director for power generation, he was the chief operating officer for the second largest power and water company in Africa and has also worked in the United States. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Peavey previously worked as chief executive officer for the Egbin Power PLC in Nigeria. He also worked as CEO of the Holley-Navarre Water System in Florida.

When asked how he learned about the CUC deputy director's position, Peavey said his wife and children at the time were from the Republic of Palau and that the CNMI is a big brother of Palau. He did not elaborate.

FIRE

From Page 1

terns indicated that the area of origin was at the engine compartment and spread [toward] the backseat of the vehicle. No injuries or fatalities were reported on the scene. Based on the information developed through investigations, interviews, and scene examinations, it is revealed that the fire's cause was the vehicle impacting the tree, which may have caused fuel systems or electrical systems to become defective," DFEMS stated.

The Department of Public Safety reported last Sunday, at around 4:38am, that a vehicle was on fire on Capital Hill near the old Passport Office. The fire got started after the

driver of the vehicle lost control and rammed a tree.

Fire Investigator Benjamin Paul Manglona stated in his report that a 22-year-old male was heading home from Garapan when he lost control of his vehicle while trying to avoid potholes. The vehicle then hit a tree, causing the fire to start in the engine compartment not long after the impact.

According to a DFEMS press release, DPS officers reported the vehicle that was in flames at around 4:39am. The vehicle fire was contained at 5:03am.

Investigators from the Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation then arrived on the scene to investigate and assess the cause of the fire.

ENGINE

From Page 1

3 in Isley Field.

"We are already beginning the process for having everything in place for that," Peavey said in an interview Tuesday. "It's a [Federal Emergency Management Agency]-funded project."

Peavey described the engine as a Caterpillar that is self-generating, which means it stands its own, is self-contained, and will have remote control capability.

Power Plant 3 was deactivated in 2002, but CUC is now reactivating it for the use of water wells during emergencies or disasters.

Former CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho earlier disclosed that the funding for the new engine will be coming from the \$7.3-million

FEMA grant for the water hazard mitigation.

Now that a lot of water wells in the area have been rehabilitated, CUC determined that Power Plant 3 is vital, based on the lessons they learned from super typhoons Soudelor in 2015 and Yutu in 2018.

In May 2021, the CUC board approved the lease terms of a draft agreement between CUC and the Commonwealth Ports Authority over CUC's plan to build a 1.5-megawatt Power Plant 3 on CPA property to be used during disasters or emergencies. The CUC-CPA agreement was subsequently finalized.

CUC previously stated that there are about 65-67 active wells in the Isley Airport and Obyan areas. These water wells provide water to the southern part of the island and serve about 4,000 to 6,000 households.

LB

From page 3

allocated \$3.56 million out of the total \$482 million approved for the CNMI. He said these funds were designated for essential upgrades to the Legislature building, encompassing capital improvements, operations, and technology.

However, Tenorio said, the recent communication with acting Finance secretary Tracy B. Norita casts uncertainty on the availability of ARPA funds for the bureau. He said this decision is troubling because the bureau currently does not have enough resources in its local account to address pressing needs.

Specifically, Tenorio said, they require approximately \$1.4 million for the construction of the backup gen-

erator and a new HVAC (air-conditioning) system.

In addition, he said, they need to hire an engineer to supervise the construction progress, estimated to cost around \$115,000, for both projects.

He noted that in October 2021, they were forced to make an emergency purchase of a 20-ton HVAC system, which cost approximately \$185,000. The unit serves the air-conditioning system of both Senate and House chambers, as well as several member offices.

Tenorio said they have to increasingly rely on the expertise of air-conditioning technicians to troubleshoot the outdated units.

"It is not a matter of if but when our current units will malfunction, necessitating costly repairs or replacements," he added.

No changes yet in regulations for Health Network Program

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which now administers the Health Network Program—formerly known as the Medical Referral Program—advises that there have been no changes in its regulations (Title 75-50) since the enactment of Public Law 22-33 authorizing the program.

However, facing a critical funding crisis, the program must exercise caution in its expenditures while adhering to regulations. Steps taken include clarifying ambiguities and updating the income eligibility, which determines who is eligible for benefits of the program—air transportation, accommodations, ground transportation, and subsistence.

As the new law requires, on Jan. 31, 2023, CHCC asked for \$3,487,754 to operate the program in the current quarter, leaving the CHCC leadership with the challenge of ensuring support continues for those currently in the system and for those waiting for the determination of eligibility. Since that request, however, CHCC has received only \$700,000 in total.

CHCC had hoped to receive two years of adequate funding to turn the program around and bring sustainability to the program, which helps provide access to nec-

essary medical services for individuals in the CNMI.

CHCC has already implemented cost reduction strategies, which have contributed to a nearly 34% decrease—from an annual expenditure of nearly \$17 million in 2019 to \$11.2 million in 2022, while still providing benefits to over 1,000 residents. Initiatives implemented require time and continued funding to obtain tangible outcomes. Some of the cost-saving measures taken by CHCC since 2021 include improved coordination of benefits with insurance plans, particularly CNMI Medicaid, capped airfare, use of a company credit card to book flights, minimizing blocked rooms, and the utilization of ride-sharing platforms such as Uber Health.

In the meantime, CHCC urges the community to access primary and preventive care. Before requesting HNP support, know if you will qualify for HNP benefits and understand your options to access services. The HNP staff are available to answer questions and assist you with making appointments—(670) 323-1445 or email hsnp@chcc.health—which is open to all, even if determined to be ineligible to receive other benefits. (CHCC)



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A tribute to the
Honorable Edward DLG. Pangelinan




This program and film has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program and film, do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Atkins Kroll opposes stay on its dealership project

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Atkins Kroll has filed an opposition with the Superior Court against the stay being sought by the Anaks Ocean View Hill Saipan Homeowners Association on the Zoning permit issued for the construction of a new Lexus dealership in Puerto Rico.

According to Atkins Kroll's objection, the Superior Court lacks jurisdiction to rule on Anaks' motion for

stay of agency action.

Rodney Jacob, who represent Atkins Kroll, argues that the Superior Court does not have jurisdiction over this matter until the Supreme Court issues its mandate, "which has not occurred as of the time of this filing."

"After the Supreme Court resolves an appeal, there must be a mandate, which has not yet occurred here. A mandate is either formally issued by the Supreme Court or 'consists of a certified copy of the

judgment, [and] a copy of the court's opinion, if any.' Neither method for satisfying the mandate requirement has been met at this time. As for the formal mandate, the Supreme Court has not issued one. As for the mandate consisting of a certified copy of the judgment and opinion, the Supreme Court has not yet issued a judgment," he said.

"Because there is no mandate, this court has no jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case. AK therefore ob-

jects to Anaks' motion for stay, which this court does not have authority to hear," he said.

Jacob also stated in the motion that in the coming days, AK intends to file a petition for rehearing, or in the alternative, a motion for reconsideration, before the CNMI Supreme Court, which will need to be resolved before the mandate issues, and the trial court is given authority to hear the motion for a stay.

"In the meantime, Anaks cannot ask this court for any

relief and the court cannot act on the matter," Jacob said.

According to court documents, back in January 2022, Atkins Kroll applied for a permit with the Zoning Board to build a dealership and vehicle repair facility next to the Anaks condominium complex in Puerto Rico. On March 18, 2022, the Zoning Board approved Atkins Kroll's application and issued the permit on April 13, 2022.

Anaks then filed a petition to challenge the permit in the Superior Court, but the peti-

tion was dismissed for being untimely filed. On appeal, the CNMI Supreme Court held that Anaks' petition was timely filed and set aside the dismissal. The high court also ruled that the Superior Court had jurisdiction to review a permit issued by the Zoning Board to Atkins Kroll.

Following the Supreme Court's decision, Anaks renewed its request for the trial court to review the Zoning Board's decision and asked for a stay on the Zoning permit issued.

UOG collaborates with Pacific Northwest National Lab for green energy research

In a breakthrough collaboration for the University of Guam, a team from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory visited UOG on March 14. PNNL scientists are providing the university with expertise in fundamental research toward using seawater as a potential source of energy.

The lab, based in Washington state, lays a foundation for innovations that advance sustainable energy through decarbonization and energy storage. PNNL collaborates with academia in fundamental research and with industry to transition technologies to market.

UOG's collaborations with PNNL are funded through the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Basic Energy Sciences-Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce Program, and DOE's Water Power Technologies Office.

Fleur de Peralta, a senior adviser with the Risk & Environmental Assessment Group in PNNL's Energy & Environment Directorate, is one of the representatives who visited UOG. De Peralta grew up in Guam.

Dr. Karl Mueller, a physical chemist, joined de Peralta during the visit. He is a Lab Fellow and Program Development Office director for the Physical & Computational Sciences Directorate at PNNL.

The visitors toured multiple laboratories at UOG and expressed interest in knowing how PNNL can further collaborate with UOG.

The UOG team expressed willingness in hosting PNNL researchers who might want to conduct fieldwork in the Western Pacific.

UOG officials also were appreciative of the experience UOG researchers will get through this new relationship with a DOE national lab. Dr. Pamela Peralta Taitano, with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs; and Dr. Rachael Leon Guerrero, Vice Provost of Research and Sponsored Programs, are taking the administrative lead on



Karl Mueller, a physical chemist and a Program Development Office director at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington State, seated, second from left, is joined by Fleurdeliza de Peralta, seated, third from left, a senior adviser with the lab's Risk & Environmental Assessment Group, during a visit to the University of Guam on March 14. Standing from left: Dr. Pamela Peralta, director, Contracts and Grants at UOG; Dr. Michael Chan, Guam Community College dean of School of Technology & Student Services; UOG senior vice president and provost Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez; and Dr. Rachael Leon Guerrero, vice provost of Research and Sponsored Programs, UOG. Seated, first from left, Guam Community College president Mary Okada; and UOG president Thomas W. Krise, first from right.

these programs at UOG.

The DOE's Office of Science is providing \$1.695 million in BES-RENEW research funding to UOG. PNNL will receive \$555,000 for the three-year project through 2025.

Dr. John Limtiaco, an assistant professor of chemistry, takes the lead on the UOG side of the research. In addition to adding new equipment to his lab and performing collaborative research at UOG, Limtiaco and two students will participate in a research experience at PNNL this summer. Read the previous story on this link <https://www.uog.edu/news-and-announcements/2022-2023/uog-joins-research-efforts-toward-harnessing-energy-from-the-sea.php>

Five UOG students will also experience PNNL research with Dr. Limtiaco during the summers of 2024 and 2025.

"Research teams from PNNL and UOG will investigate the fundamental science behind seawater electrolysis to generate hydrogen," according to Dr. Mueller.

PNNL and UOG teams also discussed a second project funded with \$400,000 from DOE's WPTO.

Dr. Bastian Bentlage, associate professor of Bioinformatics at the UOG Ma-

rine Lab, and David Patrick Crisostomo, an aquaculture specialist with the Sea Grant Program, take the lead on research at UOG for the WPTO project. UOG will collaborate with PNNL and Sandia National Laboratories to assess

the infrastructure, environmental and economic impacts of using ocean thermal energy conversion and wave energy conversion technologies to power a proposed Guam Aquaculture Innovation Center. (UOG)

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, RM. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 602
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659
Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net
Attorney for Petitioner Antonio B. Cabrera

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF : Civil Action No.: 23-0042
THE ESTATE OF :

JOSE CRUZ : NOTICE OF HEARING
CONCEPCION, : NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent :

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF:
JOSE CRUZ CONCEPCION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Antonio B. Cabrera for the issuance of Letters of administration will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 27th day of April, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 11, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, JOSE CRUZ CONCEPCION, or his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever be barred.

Dated this 21st day of March, 2023.

/s/
Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER : Civil Case No.

OF THE ESTATE : 22-0217-CV

OF :

:

CARMEN : NOTICE OF HEARING

CASTRO REYES : ON PETITION FOR

: DECREE OF FINAL

Deceased. : DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the above-entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 6th day of April, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 21st day of March, 2023

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

/s/

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in CPA Conference Room located on the second floor of Captain George Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan on Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (March 16, 2023)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS:

1. Personnel Performance Evaluation/Desk Audit Request for Proposal
2. Transition Committee Report

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (If needed)

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. See link below.

Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837

Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

March 23, 2023

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) CPA-RFP-007-23

GENERATOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES & REPAIRS

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for proposals from qualified firms, companies and/or corporations to provide Generator Preventive Maintenance Services and Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport facilities.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The successful proposer will be awarded 2 years to perform the services with option to renew for an additional 2 years at the sole discretion of CPA.

The proposal package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning February 21, 2023.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if it's not in the best interest of CPA.

Proposals must be submitted no later than **4:00 P.M., March 23, 2023** to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date:



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 <p>BEACH CABANA 108"X 72" X 68" NOW! \$49.95 WAS: \$58.95</p>	 <p>ASSORTED FRAME ART 16.5"X21" NOW! \$19.95 WAS: \$25.95</p>	 <p>HILL & VALLEY ANGEL FOOD CAKE 9 OZ NOW! \$4.79 WAS: \$5.49</p>	 <p>AMERICA FRESH LAUNDRY DETERGENT FLORAL W/ SOFTENER 4.4 LB NOW! \$4.65 WAS: \$5.65</p>



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Commemorating a one-day anniversary doesn't substitute for a lifetime of lessons learned

For the next eight years, America will be commemorating the 20-year anniversaries of the ill-fated decision to invade Iraq. March 20, 2003 was only the beginning of the killing and maiming of tens of thousands—American troops and Iraqis alike. The reverberations of that war, based on a Bush administration fabrication that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was hoarding weapons of mass destruction and harboring al-Qaida terrorists, continue in both countries today.

Iraq lurches from one crisis to the next. There's an ongoing shortage of medical doctors, for example. That's because doctors in Iraq at the time were all trained under Hussein, tended to share his Sunni Muslim faith, and thus were deemed as enemies when the nation's Shiite majority took control. Doctors and other medical personnel were threatened and told to leave, even as hospitals were overflowing with war casualties.

Then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney, the primary promoters of the war, planned the first few weeks of the war with an eye toward efficiency of troops and expenditures. But they didn't plan for post-invasion chaos. They rashly assumed that ridding Iraq of its dictator would spawn a new dawn of free elections, where Iraq's oil riches would fund a model of prosperity and democracy for the rest of the Arab world to follow.

It didn't quite work out that way. The Bush administration's decision to dismiss the entire Sunni-dominated Iraqi military led to an armed revolt. Sunni and Shiite militias warred against each other, then both turned their guns on U.S. troops. Iraq turned into a chaotic, \$2 trillion bloodbath.

No weapons of mass destruction turned up. And the Bush administration's assertion that Hussein was harboring al-Qaida terrorists was nonsense. Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden had long regarded Hussein as an apostate and an enemy. Bin Laden had dispatched Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a follower deemed too radical even by al-Qaida standards, to northern Iraq as a way of getting rid of him. Al-Zarqawi wound up using the U.S.-inflicted chaos to form his own militia, the Islamic State, which worsened the bloodbath then exported it to neighboring Syria.

Thousands of service members and U.S. contractors paid for the administration's lies with their lives. Others will forever bear debilitating physical and emotional scars.

Politically, some Republicans point to the Iraq debacle to argue for America's withdrawal from the world—let other countries and oppressed peoples fight for themselves. Others argue that the U.S. government should never be trusted again. While there's a kernel of truth in both positions, the real lesson of Iraq is to remain engaged but exercise far more caution, especially when the evidence amounts to little more than a collection of fuzzy reconnaissance photos. And Congress must perform its legal responsibility of holding the White House in check instead of serving as its cheerleader.

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2024? Forget it, Mike

With the 2024 presidential election a mere 590 or so days in the distance, few so-called news stories could interest me less on the upslope of 2023 than candidate kabuki at the start of a 19-month pregame show.

My general policy for the 2024 race is: Wake me when it's 2024, but former Vice President Mike Pence woke me over the weekend with his remarks at Washington's annual Gridiron Dinner, a dubious forum for bipartisan humor among Beltway insiders and their journalistic acquaintances.

Pence is delusional, which, of course, is the thing that makes him most plausible as a Republican presidential nominee. He somehow believes there's a yearning for his candidacy on a landscape where the left despises him, the hard right was last seen trying to hang him, and there's little but his low-wattage conservatism to interest anyone in between.

But on Saturday night, Pence dramatically augmented his thumbnail resume. He's not only delusional; he's disgusting.

Part of Pence's shtick was a tasteless attack on Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, on the LGBT+ community, on postpartum women and, far less significantly, on comedy.

He opened by complaining that despite America's travel problems last year, Buttigieg took "maternity leave," after he and his husband adopted twins. "Pete is the only person in human history to have a child, and everybody else gets postpartum depression," Pence added.

Right, try the veal.

Among those not laughing, Chasten Buttigieg, Pete's husband, who asked on Twitter: "An honest question for you @MikePence, after your attempted joke this weekend. If your grandchild was born prematurely and placed on a ventilator at two months old—their tiny fingers wrapped around yours as the monitors beep in the background—where would you be?"

Similar reactions flooded the internet, with VoteVets tweeting: "Mike Pence mocked a gay Veteran. We dare Pence to make the same 'joke' to the face of a uniformed member of the Armed Forces who has a child with their same-sex spouse. However, it comes as no surprise that Trump's VP would smear those who serve. That's pretty on-brand."

The White House on Monday called for an apology, with press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre noting that Pence's "homophobic joke about Secretary Buttigieg was offensive and inappropriate, all the more so because he treated women suffering from postpartum depression as a punchline."

At the root of all this is that Pence is painfully desperate

By **GENE COLLIER**
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Gene Collier: gcollier@post-gazette.com
and Twitter @genecollier.



to stay relevant despite ridiculously early polling that places him about a mile behind Ron DeSantis and two miles behind Trump. He was so desperate Saturday night he even tried the truth.

"President Trump was wrong," Pence said. "I had no right to overturn the (2020) election. And his reckless words endangered my family and everyone at the Capitol that day. And I know that history will hold Donald Trump accountable."

History might, but it will get no help from Pence, as he still refuses to testify about Jan. 6 to the Department of Justice. Instead, he files bogus immunity claims to avoid telling the truth outside the Gridiron Comedy Club.

"The American people have a right to know what took place at the Capitol on January 6th," Pence told dinner guests he'd apparently thought had been immunized against irony. "But make no mistake about it, what happened that day was a disgrace, and it mocks decency to portray it any other way."

Further, Pence was perfectly willing to watch a multi-front coup attempt inflate on every side of him for months without making a sound, the same way he spent every hour of Trump's decency-mocking presidency as its primary lickspittle. If ultimately he didn't go all in with the insurrectionists, it wasn't because he didn't want to.

In late December, 2020, Pence phoned the only other former vice president from Indiana, Dan Quayle, who'd himself certified the election of Bill Clinton on Jan. 6, 1993, because, you know, it was the law. "Mike, you have no flexibility on this—none, zero, forget it; put it away," Quayle told Pence on the pages of Bob Woodward and Robert Costa's "Peril," (2021).

"I know, that's what I've been trying to tell Trump," Pence said. "But he really thinks he can. And there are other guys in there saying I've got this power."

Pence pressed further, according to the authors. He wanted to know if there was even a "glimmer of light, legally and constitutionally, to perhaps put a pause on the certification if there were ongoing court cases and legal challenges."

"You don't, just stop it. Forget it," Quayle said.

Would that Pence's question had been, "Do I have a chance in 2024?" because Quayle's advice in that moment fits this moment perfectly.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The 20th anniversary of Iraq invasion is also a colossal failure of the mainstream media

Twenty years ago, President George W. Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq, toppling the despot Saddam Hussein and fomenting a kind of hell that Iraq is still grappling with today.

Twenty years ago, this country's mainstream media—with one notable exception—bought into phony Bush administration claims about Hussein's stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, helping cheerlead our nation into a conflict that ended the lives of thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. The war—along with criminally poor post-war planning on the part of Bush administration officials—also unleashed horrible sectarian strife, led to the emergence of Islamic State and displaced more than 1 million Iraqis.

That sad chapter in American history produced its share of jingoistic buzzwords and phrases: “WMD,” “the axis of evil,” “regime change,” “yellowcake uranium,” “the coalition of the willing,” and a cheesy but terrifying refrain, repeated ad nauseam by Bush administration officials such as then-national security adviser Condoleezza Rice: “We don’t want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud.” (The memorable metaphor was dreamed up by the late Michael Gerson, a Bush speechwriter at the time.)

Of course, there was never any smoking gun, mushroom-shaped or not.

Iraq's stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction had been destroyed in 1991 after Iraq invaded Kuwait and was beaten back by a coalition of 35 countries led by the United States. The United Nations Security Council had also required Iraq to end its biological and nuclear weapons programs.

This is not to say that Hussein was a defanged tiger; he was not.

But neither was he the threat he was portrayed to be. Misleading a public that had been shaken to its core by the 9/11 terrorist attacks turned out to be a relatively easy task for the warmongering neocons of the Bush administration. They foolishly believed they could impose democracy on a nation with no history of it.

Bush officials also manufactured phony links between Iraq and the 9/11 attacks orchestrated by Islamist militant Osama bin Laden and his terrorist group al-Qaida. To his lasting mortification, the

late Secretary of State Colin Powell assured the world in a speech to the United Nations just before the invasion that the war was completely justified by the danger Iraq posed to the world.

“My colleagues, every statement I make today is backed up by sources, solid sources,” said Powell. “These are not assertions. What we’re giving you are facts and conclusions based on solid intelligence.” His statements, he later acknowledged, were patently false, many of which were provided to U.S. intelligence by unreliable sources—exiles such as Ahmad Chalabi, an Iraqi opposition leader who dreamed of ousting Hussein and taking the reins of power in Iraq.

Powell's statements are among those documented in 2008 by the Center for Public Integrity, which compiled the hundreds of lies told by Bush and his top officials as part of a campaign aimed at persuading the American public to support the invasion of Iraq “under decidedly false pretenses.”

Most of the media, said the center, “was largely complicit in its uncritical coverage of the reasons for going to war.” There was a glaring exception to that complicity. Three reporters and an editor in Knight Ridder's Washington bureau were alone among the major news organizations in questioning the administration's narrative about WMD. Jonathan Landay, Warren Strobel and Joe Galloway, with their editor John Walcott, threw water on so much of what the mainstream media was reporting. The drama was captured in “Shock and Awe,” a 2017 feature film by Rob Reiner, who plays Walcott.

In 2013, on the 10th anniversary of the invasion, Walcott told me his team was driven by skepticism, journalism's most precious resource.

“Most of the administration's case for that war made absolutely no sense, specifically the notion that Saddam Hussein was allied with Osama bin Laden. A secular Arab dictator allied with a radical Islamist whose goal was to overthrow secular dictators and reestablish his caliphate? The more we examined it, the more it stank.”

Also, he said, rather than rely on high-ranking administration officials, they sought out lower-level staff who

By **ROBIN ABCARIAN**
Los Angeles Times



were not political appointees and less apt to parrot the president to stay in his good graces.

Knight Ridder turned out story after story undercutting the administration's (and The New York Times', The Washington Post's and the Los Angeles Times') version of Hussein's capabilities. Some of Knight Ridder's own newspapers—among them, the Philadelphia Inquirer—refused to run the stories, for fear of being contradicted, especially by The New York Times, which explained its credulous coverage of the WMD issue about 15 months after the invasion.

“It is still possible that chemical or biological weapons will be unearthed in Iraq,” wrote Times editors, “but in this case it looks as if we, along with the administration, were taken in.”

Of course, there was robust opposition to the invasion of Iraq in the U.S. and around the world, though in the first few months of the conflict, a majority of Americans polled were supportive.

It did not take long for disenchantment to set in. After all, where were all those Iraqis that Vice President Cheney had promised would greet American soldiers as “liberators”?

Cheney has never apologized for his role in the Iraqi blunder (as far as I can tell, he is still defending it). Neither has Bush, although he recently, if accidentally, admitted the truth.

In a speech last May at the Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, he said it was “the decision of one man to launch a wholly unjustified and brutal invasion of Iraq, I mean, Ukraine.”

He winced, then almost under his breath, added: “Iraq too.”

New book: If we don't fight for teachers, we will lose them

After interviewing teachers across the country, shadowing three of them for 12 months and taking a job as a long-term substitute in her own local Maryland school district, journalist Alexandra Robbins has a warning for America: “If we don’t fight for teachers now, we are going to lose them forever.”

In her new book, “The Teachers: A Year Inside America's Most Vulnerable, Important Profession,” Robbins is an unflinching and unapologetic advocate for America's 4,007,908 K-12 teachers. The 344-page book documents the high demands placed on teachers, the low pay and respect accorded them and the culture wars that denounce them as leftist evangelists.

In a telephone interview, Robbins said, “The book is meant to sway national dialogue in favor of teachers.”

Robbins digs into the daily lives and challenges of sixth grade math teacher Penny, elementary school teacher Rebecca and special education teacher Miguel. What links the three: increasing tension between their deep commitment to their students and their exasperation with the system's unresponsive bureaucracy, the capitulation of administrators and the disrespect of the public.

The teachers in Robbins' book sacrifice family time and social lives to accommodate the additional roles required of them, especially dealing with the worsening mental health of children crisis intensified by COVID-19. School leaders pile responsibilities on teachers because they know teachers will accept them, said Robbins.

“If teachers believe no one will do those things if they don’t step up, they will take on those tasks because they will not abandon their kids,” she said. “I interviewed hundreds of teachers and all of them call their students ‘my kids.’ Teachers want to help their kids at every level. The problem is that districts aren’t hiring

enough counselors. There should be a full-time nurse in every school. They are not hiring behavioral specialists, paraprofessionals or other support staff who could be pitching in so teachers can focus on teaching.”

Robbins believes the political attacks on teachers and the surge in legislation seeking to limit their autonomy will render the profession so toxic that fewer and fewer people will consider it. “The job responsibilities have escalated out of control. The job needs to change,” she said, calling for teachers to get significant pay increases, safer working environments, loan forgiveness, a major voice in policy and a greater respect for what they do.

Recent headlines underscore her fears about pending shortages. The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education reported that 7,000 teachers quit last year, an increase of about a thousand from the prior year. Proposed legislation in Connecticut seeks to bump educator starting salaries to more than \$58,000. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, an independent who caucuses with Democrats, recently introduced legislation to raise public school teacher salaries nationwide to \$60,000 or higher.

Many teachers are clearly debating whether to stay in a field that pays less than many others requiring a college degree and emotionally and physically depletes them. When Penny penalizes a student for repeatedly failing to turn in his math worksheet, the boy's mother blames her, sending Penny an email asking, “Did you get the homework out of his locker?”

Fourth grade teacher Rebecca gives up on trying to carve out time for dating, deciding to direct all her energy into teaching. (She also rehomes her rescue pup when her long hours cause the dog to bark incessantly, annoying her neighbors.) Special education teacher Miguel suffers debilitating injuries to his back and arm tendons from attacks by students, eventually suing the district and winning.

Robbins cites dozens of examples of poor parental behavior,

By **MAUREEN DOWNEY**
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



from a mother of twins sending their weekend sports schedules to their teachers and expecting them to show up regularly to a father insisting teachers exempt his daughter from schoolwork during her softball season. A Texas teacher told Robbins, “Parents see teachers as a public utility and talk to us as if we’re garbage.”

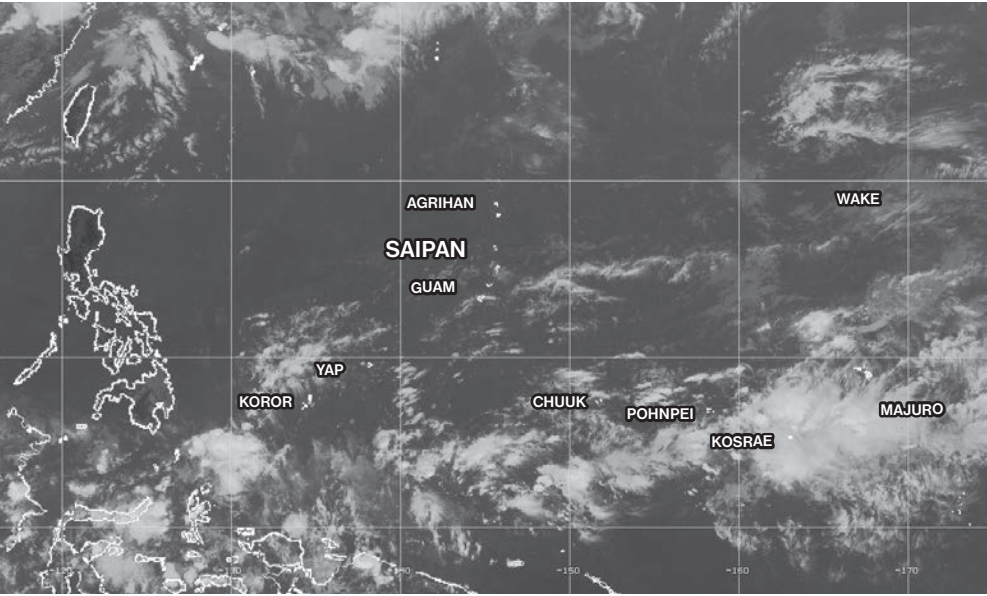
“I think the anti-teacher fringe has gone too far with their hostility and their attempts to censor classroom materials. Anti-teacher sentiment hadn’t hit the news as broadly as it is hitting now,” said Robbins. “Teachers have been telling us for years about a small but vocal minority of parents and community members that would take things this far. People weren’t paying attention.”

“Politicians know they can get away with attacking teachers because teachers are so afraid for their jobs and they can’t fight back, which is why the rest of us need to step up and defend them,” said Robbins. “Surveys show the people most dissatisfied with their local schools and teachers don’t even have school-age children.”

Parents are witnessing the fallout from these political attacks on teachers as districts resort to substitutes and larger class sizes because they can’t hire enough staff. “If they have not been willing to speak on behalf of teachers because it’s the right thing to do,” she said, “they are now realizing their own child’s experience is going to be worse.”

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	74°	86°	74°	86°	74°	86°	74°	86°	74°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 10:01 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows isolated showers and thunderstorms moving through the Marianas. The most concentrated area is currently southeast of Guam, with another cluster affecting Saipan right now, at 8 in the morning. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, largely composed of east trade-wind swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 77°	
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Isolated Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	82° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:37 AM	7:01 PM	-
Thursday	7:18 AM	7:57 PM	-
Friday	7:59 AM	8:53 PM	-
Saturday	8:41 AM	9:49 PM	-
Sunday	9:25 AM	10:45 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	60° / 34°	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	78° / 72°	
Honolulu	Sunny	83° / 72°	
London	Light Rain	56° / 47°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 48°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 77°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	63° / 51°	
Miami	Showers	80° / 74°	
New York	Cloudy	60° / 48°	
Osaka	Rain	69° / 61°	
Paris	Light Rain	50° / 43°	
Busan	Rain	65° / 54°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	60° / 48°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 43°	
San Francisco	Showers	58° / 47°	
Seoul	Light Rain	72° / 40°	
Tokyo	Rain	64° / 61°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	65° / 51°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:46 AM	High Tide	0.20	
8:43 AM	Low Tide	1.97	
3:15 PM	High Tide	0.21	
9:12 PM	Low Tide	1.92	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	4, 7	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS					
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023					
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7	8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7
3:00 P.M.	3:40 P.M.	6,7	4:00 P.M.	4:40 P.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7
5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	6,7	6:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	6,7
ROTA TO GUAM			GUAM TO ROTA		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)					

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Trump's potential indictment caps decades of legal scrutiny

NEW YORK (AP)—For 40 years, former President Donald Trump has navigated countless legal investigations without ever facing criminal charges. That record may soon come to an end.

Trump could be indicted by a Manhattan grand jury as soon as this week, potentially charged with falsifying business records connected to hush money payments during his 2016 campaign to women who accused him of sexual encounters.

It's one of several investigations that have intensified as Trump mounts his third presidential run. He has denied any allegations of wrongdoing and accuses prosecutors of engaging in a politically motivated "witch hunt" to damage his campaign.

An indictment in New York would mark an extraordinary turn in American history, making Trump the first former president to face a criminal charge. And it would carry tremendous weight for Trump himself, threatening his long-established ability to avoid consequences despite entanglement in a dizzying number of cases.

Indictment, says biographer Michael D'Antonio, would be a "shocking event, both because of the fact that a former president is being indicted for the first time, but also because one of the slipperiest people at the highest level of business, whose devotion to abusing the system is so well

established, is being caught."

"Throughout his life, he has done things for which he could have been investigated and potentially prosecuted and learned from those experiences that he could act with impunity," he said.

Trump first faced legal scrutiny in the 1970s when the Department of Justice brought a racial discrimination case against his family's real estate business.

Trump and his father fiercely fought the suit, which accused them of refusing to rent apartments to black tenants in predominantly white buildings. Testimony showed that applications filed by prospective black tenants were marked with a "C" for "colored." Trump counter-sued for \$100 million, accusing the government of defamation.

The case ended with a settlement that opened the way for some black tenants but did not force the Trumps to explicitly acknowledge they had "failed and neglected" to comply with the Fair Housing Act.

Since then, Trump and his businesses have been the subject of thousands of civil lawsuits and numerous investigations. There have been probes into his casino and real estate dealings, allegations of bribery and improper lobbying, fraud allegations against the now-defunct Trump University and charitable Trump Foundation and a probe by the Manhattan district attorney into sales at the Trump SoHo hotel-condomini-



A police officer places a barricade in front of Trump Tower, on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in New York.

um in Lower Manhattan.

Indeed, according Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a government watchdog group abbreviated CREW, as of November 2022, Trump had been accused of committing at least 56 criminal offenses since he launched his campaign in 2015, not including allegations of fraudulent business dealings. But he has never been formally indicted.

Trump is a master of delay tactics, "finding ways to endlessly delay in the hopes that the investigation and litigation will go away. And he's had remarkable success," says CREW president Noah Bookbinder, a former federal corruption prosecutor.

"It makes accountability absolutely essential because we can't have people in a functioning democracy operating in positions of power with total impunity where they can commit crimes and never have to face any consequences," he said.

Trump's retort to such strong talk: He commits no crimes, so consequences would themselves be unjust.

As president, Trump continued to face legal scrutiny. For two years, the Justice Department investigated his 2016 campaign's ties to Russia. While special counsel Robert Mueller never found direct evidence of collusion, his final report did lay out evidence for obstruction. He noted that,

because of a department opinion that bars indicting a sitting president, he couldn't recommend Trump be criminally

charged, even in secret.

Since Trump left office, the investigations have circled ever closer.

In January, his namesake company was fined \$1.6 million for tax crimes, including conspiracy and falsifying business records. The company's longtime executive, Allen Weisselberg, is currently serving jail time as punishment for dodging taxes on job perks.

Additional cases are still being pursued. In Georgia, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis has been investigating whether Trump and his allies illegally meddled in the 2020 election. The foreperson of a special grand jury, which heard from dozens of witnesses, said last month that the panel had recommended that numerous people be indicted, and hinted Trump could be among them. It is ultimately up to Willis to decide whether to move forward.

Yellen that says bank situation stabilizing, different from 2008

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen projected calm on Tuesday after recent regional bank collapses but told a gathering of bankers that additional rescue arrangements "could be warranted" if any new failures at smaller institutions jeopardize financial stability.

Yellen, who made her remarks at the American Bankers Association, said that overall "the situation is stabilizing."

"And the U.S. banking system remains sound," Yellen said, drawing clear differences between recent events and the 2008 financial meltdown, which triggered trillions of dollars of financial losses globally.

"This is different from 2008," she said. "2008 was a solvency crisis, rather what we're seeing now is contagious bank runs."

Yellen's remarks come after a series of troubling bank developments this month.

Silicon Valley Bank, based in Santa Clara, California, failed on March 10 after depositors rushed to withdraw money amid anxiety over the bank's health. It was the second-largest bank collapse in U.S. history. Regulators convened over the following weekend and announced that New York-based Signature Bank also had failed. They said that all depositors at both banks, including those holding uninsured funds, those exceeding \$250,000,

would be protected by federal deposit insurance.

And last week a third bank, San Francisco-based First Republic Bank, was fortified by \$30 billion in funds raised by 11 of the biggest U.S. banks in an attempt to prevent it from collapsing.

The government is now determined to restore public confidence in the banking system and to prevent any more turmoil. The Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission have launched investigations into the Silicon Valley Bank collapse, and President Joe Biden has called on Congress to strengthen rules on regional banks and to impose tougher penalties on executives of failed banks.

Yellen said the government's intervention was necessary to "protect the broader banking system" and more rescue efforts could be necessary, noting that the government is still closely monitoring the banking sector.

"Similar actions could be warranted if smaller institutions suffer deposit runs that pose the risk of contagion," she said.

When Yellen was asked by the association's president, Rob Nichols, what policies need to be adjusted in light of recent events, she said, "I don't want to speculate at this point on what those adjustments might be. What I'm focused on is stabilizing our system."

US regulators delay decision on nuclear fuel storage license

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—U.S. regulators say they need more time to wrap up a final safety report and make a decision on whether to license a multibillion-dollar complex meant to temporarily store tons of spent fuel from commercial nuclear power plants around the nation.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a new schedule Monday, citing unforeseen staffing constraints. The agency was initially expected to issue a decision by the end of March. It will now be the end of May.

The announcement comes just days after New Mexico approved legislation aimed at stopping the project. It's expected that supporters of the storage facility will take the fight to court, but New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Tuesday asked the NRC to suspend its consideration of the license application.

New Jersey-based Holtec International already has

spent an estimated \$80 million in its pursuit of a 40-year license to build and operate the complex in southeastern New Mexico. Company officials said Tuesday that the delay in licensing would have only a minimal impact on the original timeline.

"With a project of this complexity, we understand the need for the regulating and licensing authority to have all the time and resources necessary to issue a licensing decision," Holtec spokesman Patrick O'Brien said in an email.

Holtec, elected officials from southeastern New Mexico and other supporters have been pushing hard to offer what they call a temporary solution to the nation's problem of spent nuclear fuel, which has been piling up at commercial reactors for years.

Since the federal government has failed to build a permanent repository, it reimburses utilities to house the fuel in either steel-lined

concrete pools of water or in steel and concrete containers known as casks at sites in nearly three dozen states. That cost is expected to stretch into the tens of billions of dollars over the next decade.

The legislation signed by Lujan Grisham last week requires that the state provide consent for bringing in such radioactive material. Consent from the Democratic governor would be unlikely, as she has argued that without a permanent repository, New Mexico stands to be the nation's de facto dumping ground.

She reiterated her opposition in the letter to NRC Chairman Christopher Hanson.

"Thank you for respecting the state of New Mexico's laws and the voices of our citizens, tribes and pueblos who overwhelmingly supported this legislation," she wrote.

Similar battles have been waged in Nevada, Utah and Texas over the decades as the U.S. has struggled to find a

home for spent fuel and other radioactive waste. The proposed Yucca Mountain project in Nevada was mothballed and a temporary storage site planned on a Native American reservation in Utah was sidelined despite being licensed by the NRC in 2006.

That project would have been located on land belonging to the Skull Valley Band of Goshute. Utah's governor at the time—Republican Mike Leavitt—was among those fighting the effort. He and others were successful in getting Congress to amend a defense spending bill, essentially landlocking the site by creating the Cedar Mountain Wilderness and blocking a rail spur that would have delivered casks.

But it was only six weeks later that the NRC issued a license for the project.

Don Hancock with the nuclear watchdog group Southwest Research and Information Center pointed to the Utah case.

Nation

Biden creates national monuments in Nevada, Texas mountains

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden said Tuesday he is establishing national monuments on more than half a million acres in Nevada and Texas and creating a marine sanctuary in U.S. waters near the Pacific Remote Islands southwest of Hawaii. The conservation measures are “protecting the heart and soul of our national pride,” Biden said.

Speaking at a White House summit on conservation action, Biden said the new monuments are among the “natural treasures” that “define our identity as a nation. They’re a birthright we have to pass down to generation after generation.”

Biden designated Avi Kwa Ame, a desert mountain in southern Nevada that Native Americans consider sacred, as a national monument, along with the Castner Range in El Paso, Texas. He also moved to create a national marine sanctuary in U.S. waters around the Pacific Remote Islands.

Conservation and tribal groups praised Biden’s actions, but Nevada’s new Republican governor slammed the monument designation as “federal confiscation” of Nevada land and “a historic mistake that will cost Nevadans for generations to come.”

Gov. Joe Lombardo, who unseated the state’s Democratic governor in November, said the White House did not consult with his administration before moving to block clean-energy projects and other development in his state. “This kind of ‘Washington Knows Best’ policy might win plaudits from unaccountable special interests, but it’s going to cost our state jobs and economic opportunity,” Lombardo said in a statement.

“Our national wonders are literally the envy of the world,” Biden said in a speech at the Interior Department. “They’ve always been and always will be central to our heritage as a people and essential to our identity as a nation.”

The Nevada site spans more than 500,000 acres (200,000 hectares) and includes Spirit Mountain, a peak northwest of Laughlin called Avi Kwa Ame (ah-VEE’ kwa-meh) by the Fort Mojave Tribe and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The rugged landscape near the Arizona and California state lines is home to bighorn sheep, desert tortoises and a large concentration of Joshua trees, some of which are more than 900 years old.

In Texas, the Castner Range designation will protect cul-



President Joe Biden speaks at the White House Conservation in Action Summit at the Department of the Interior, Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in Washington.

tural, scientific and historic objects, honor U.S. veterans and tribal nations, and expand access to outdoor recreation on public lands, Biden said. Located on Fort Bliss, Castner Range served as a training and testing site for the U.S. Army during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The Army ceased training at the site and closed Castner Range in 1966.

Together, the two new national monuments protect nearly 514,000 acres (208,000

hectares) of public lands. The Avi Kwa Ame landscape is sacred to 12 tribes and is home to rare wildlife and plants, while Castner Range is the ancestral homeland of the Comanche and Apache people, and its cultural ecology is considered sacred to several Indigenous communities.

“To the native people who point to Avi Kwa Ame as their spiritual birthplace, and every Nevadan who knows the value of our cherished pub-

lic lands: Today is for you,” tweeted Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nevada, who sponsored a bill to protect the rugged region near the Mojave National Preserve from development, including solar farms and a proposed wind farm.

“Spirit Mountain will now be protected for future generations,” Titus said.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said Avi Kwa Ame “holds deep spiritual, sacred and historic significance to the Native

people who have lived on these lands for generations,” adding that she was grateful to Biden “for taking this important step in recognition of the decades of advocacy from tribes and the scientific community.”

In the Pacific, Biden directed the Commerce Department to initiate a marine sanctuary designation to protect 777,000 square miles around the Pacific Remote Islands. If completed, the new sanctuary would help ensure the U.S. reaches Biden’s goal to conserve at least 30% of ocean waters under U.S. jurisdiction by 2030, the White House said.

The area to be protected is “larger than Alaska and Colorado put together,” Biden said.

Biden’s actions come as he faces sharp criticism from environmental groups and youth activists over his approval of the huge Willow oil drilling project in Alaska.

Biden has made fighting global warming a central part of his agenda and has pledged to cut planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. But the decision on Willow has alienated supporters, particularly young activists skeptical about political compromise at the same time Biden is planning to announce his reelection campaign.

Virginia teacher shot by 6-year-old: ‘I thought I had died’

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (AP)—A Virginia teacher who was shot and wounded by her 6-year-old student said it has changed her life and she has vivid memories and nightmares about that day.

“I just will never forget the look on his face that he gave me while he pointed the gun directly at me,” first-grade teacher Abby Zwerner said during an exclusive interview with NBC’s Savannah Guthrie about the student. “It’s changed me. It’s changed my life.”

She said she’s still in shock and can’t make sense of it, in a portion of the interview that aired Tuesday morning on “Today.”

“I’m not sure when the shock will ever go away because of just how surreal it was and the vivid memories I have of that day. I think about it daily. Sometimes I have nightmares,” she said.

Speaking publicly for the first time since the Jan. 6 shooting, Zwerner said in a portion of the interview that aired Monday on “NBC Nightly News” that she’s had a challenging re-

covery. She’s had four surgeries and has some days when she “can’t get up out of bed.” Other days she can go about her day.

“For going through what I’ve gone through, I try to stay positive. You know, try to have a positive outlook on what’s happened and where my future’s heading,” Zwerner said.

Zwerner was hospitalized for nearly two weeks after being shot in the chest and left hand as she taught her class at Richneck Elementary School in Newport News, Virginia. The shooting rattled the military shipbuilding community and sent shock waves around the country, with many wondering how a child so young could get access to a gun and shoot his teacher.

In the moments after she was shot, Zwerner said the other first-graders in her class were screaming.

She was terrified. But her concern centered on the children—“I just wanted to get my babies out of there.”

“I think they knew as

well that they had to get out of there,” Zwerner said. “But they were extremely frightened and screaming.”

What happened next is still kind of a blur. Zwerner got the kids out of the classroom.

She knew she needed help. The fire alarm had gone off, heightening her awareness that she’d been shot.

She had trouble breathing. Her vision failed.

“I went to the office and I just passed out,” Zwerner said. “I thought I had died.”

Zwerner didn’t know it at the time, but her lung had collapsed. Doctors said the bullet could have killed her. She likely survived because she had put up her hands.

“The initial gunshot went through my left hand and ruptured the middle bone as well as the index finger and the thumb,” she said. “The gunshot then went into my chest up here, where it actually still remains. So I have the scar up here. And I still have some bullet fragments up here.”

ACROSS THE NATION

Arkansas restricts school bathroom use by transgender people

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.

(AP)—Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Tuesday signed a law prohibiting transgender people at public schools from using the restroom that matches their gender identity, the first of several states expected to enact such bans this year amid a flood of bills nationwide targeting the trans community. The bill signed by the Republican governor makes Arkansas the fourth state to place such restrictions at public schools, and it comes as bills in Idaho and Iowa also await their governor’s signature. And it might be followed by an even stricter Arkansas bill criminalizing transgender adults using public restrooms that match their gender identity. Arkansas’ law, which won’t take effect until later this summer, applies to multi-person restrooms and locker rooms at public schools and charter schools serving prekindergarten through 12th grade. The majority-Republican

Legislature gave final approval to the bill last week.

Man gets 4 years for attacking police at Jan. 6 Capitol riot

A Virginia man who assaulted police with a stolen baton and used a flashing strobe light to disorient officers trying to defend the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 was sentenced Tuesday to more than four years in prison. Geoffrey Sills of Mechanicsville, Virginia, was convicted of assault with a dangerous weapon, obstruction of Congress and robbery for his role in the violence at the Capitol’s Lower West Terrace tunnel, where police were beaten and crushed as they tried to beat back the angry mob of President Donald Trump supporters. The 31-year-old has already served a year and a half behind bars since his June 2021 arrest. (AP)

Race record trails ‘wild card’ prosecutor in Louisiana death

FARMERVILLE, La.

(AP)—In this conservative corner of northern Louisiana, where reverence for

law enforcement runs deep and Blue Lives Matter flags often fly alongside the Stars and Stripes, the case of five white officers charged in the deadly 2019 arrest of Black motorist Ronald Greene is seen as anything but a slam dunk. So even with explosive body-camera video showing officers stunning, beating and dragging Greene, the Black district attorney in mostly white Union Parish has decided to bring in a hired gun: an experienced white special prosecutor with a folksy law-and-order bravado and a three-decades-long reputation for winning complicated cases across the state. But Hugo Holland’s background is also marked by accusations of racial bias, including new claims uncovered by The Associated Press, that make him an unlikely advocate for racial justice. In fact, he says the concept has no place in the Greene case or anywhere in the justice system. “Justice is justice,” Holland told the AP. “It doesn’t make any difference what race the offender or the victim is. Frace has got nothing to do with it.”

Asia

Marcos defends US military presence that China opposes



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., right, shakes hands with Philippine Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. during rites at the 126th founding anniversary of the Philippine Army at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig, Philippines on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday defended his decision to allow a larger United States military presence in the country as vital to territorial defense despite China's fierce opposition and warning that it would "drag the Philippines into the abyss of geopolitical strife."

The Marcos administration announced in early February that it would allow rotating batches of American forces to indefinitely stay in four more Philippine military camps in addition to five local bases earlier designated under a 2014 defense pact of the long-

time treaty allies.

Marcos said without elaborating that the four new sites would be announced soon and they include areas in the northern Philippines. That location has infuriated Chinese officials because it would provide U.S. forces a staging ground close to southern China and Taiwan.

The Biden administration has been strengthening an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to better counter China, including in any future confrontation over Taiwan. America's moves dovetail with Philippine efforts to shore up its territorial

defense amid a long-seething dispute mainly with China in the South China Sea.

Aside from the northern and southern Philippines, Marcos told a news conference without elaborating that, under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, U.S. forces would also be allowed to stay in western Palawan province, which faces the South China Sea. He underscored that the moves were meant to boost the country's coastal defense and added in reply to a question that opposition to the U.S. military presence by some local Filipino officials had been overcome.

11 killed as strong earthquake rattles Pakistan, Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A magnitude 6.5 earthquake rattled much of Pakistan and Afghanistan on Tuesday, sending panicked residents fleeing from homes and offices and frightening people in remote villages. At least nine people died in Pakistan and two in Afghanistan, officials said Wednesday.

More than 200 people were brought to hospitals in the Swat valley and elsewhere in the region of Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in a state of shock, Bilal Faizi, a spokesman for Pakistan's emergency services told The Associated Press.

"These terrified people collapsed, and some of them collapsed because of the shock of the earthquake," he said. Faizi said most were later discharged from the hospital.

Faizi and other officials said nine people were killed when roofs collapsed in various parts of northwestern Pakistan. Dozens of others were injured in

the quake, which was centered in Afghanistan and also felt in bordering Tajikistan. The earthquake triggered landslides in some of the mountainous areas, disrupting traffic.

The nine people who died in northwest Pakistan included five men, two women and two children.

Taimoor Khan, a spokesman for the provincial disaster management authority in the northwest, said at least 19 mudbrick homes collapsed in remote areas. "We are still collecting data about the damages," he said. On Wednesday.

The powerful tremors sent many people fleeing their homes and offices in Pakistan's capital of Islamabad, some reciting verses from the Quran, Islam's holy book. Media reports suggested cracks had appeared in some apartment buildings in the city.

In Afghanistan, Sharafat Zaman Amar, Taliban's appointed spokesman for the

public health ministry said, so far at least two people died and around 20 others were injured in the earthquake in Afghanistan.

Zaman Amar said "Unfortunately, there could be more casualties as the quake was so powerful, in most parts of the country" all hospitals and health facilities are ready to save lives of people, he added.

The scene was repeated in Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan.

"The quake was so strong and terrifying, we thought houses are collapsing on us, people were all shouting and were shocked," said Shafullah Azimi, a Kabul resident.

Aziz Ahmad, 45, another Kabul resident, said "In my life this was first time I have experienced such powerful quake, everyone was terrified," He added he and all his neighbors stayed out of their homes for hours, afraid of aftershocks. "We couldn't dare to get back homes."

World

US speeds up Abrams tank delivery to Ukraine war zone

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon is speeding up its delivery of Abrams tanks to Ukraine, opting to send a refurbished older model that can be ready faster, with the aim of getting the 70-ton battle powerhouses to the war zone by the fall, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

The original plan was to send Ukraine 31 of the newer M1A2 Abrams, which could have taken a year or two to build and ship. But officials said the decision was made to send the older M1A1 version, which can be taken from Army stocks. Officials said the M1A1 also will be easier for Ukrainian forces to learn to use and maintain as they fight the invading Russian forces.

"This is about getting this important combat capability into the hands of the Ukrainians sooner rather than later," said Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary.

The Biden administration announced in January that it would send the tanks to Ukraine—after insisting for months that they were too complicated and too hard to maintain and repair. The decision was part of a broader political maneuver that opened the door for Germany to announce it would send its Leop-

ard 2 tanks to Ukraine and allow Poland and other allies to do the same.

Speaking at a Pentagon press conference, Ryder said the tanks will be refurbished and refitted to make them combat ready for Ukraine. He declined to say where that work will be done.

It's unclear how soon the U.S. would begin training Ukrainian forces on how to use, maintain and repair the tanks. The intention would be to have the training of the troops coincide with the refurbishment of the tanks, so that both would be ready for battle at the same time later this year, said U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not publicly provided. The Pentagon will also have to ensure that Ukrainian forces have an adequate supply chain for all the parts needed to keep the tanks running.

The Russian and Ukrainian forces have been largely in a stalemate, trading small slices of land over the winter. The fiercest battles have been in the eastern Donetsk region, where Russia is struggling to encircle the city of Bakhmut in the face of dogged Ukrainian defense. But both sides are expected to launch more intensive offen-

sives in the spring.

Asked about the timing of the tanks' arrival, Ryder said the Abrams are part of the medium-and longer-term military support the U.S. is providing to Ukraine. He said that as Ukrainian forces take or retake territory, they will also need to sustain those gains and deter Russia from regaining any footholds.

During a visit to a tank plant in Lima, Ohio, in February, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth met with officials there at length to determine the best options for getting the tanks to Ukraine.

"Part of it is figuring out—among the different options—what's the best one that can allow us to get the Ukrainians tanks in as timely a fashion as we can," without disrupting foreign military sales, Wormuth said at the time.

Officials at the plant, which is owned by the Army and operated by Reston, Virginia-based General Dynamics, said production totals can vary, based on contract demands. And while they are currently building 15-20 armored vehicles per month, including tanks, they can easily boost that to 33 a month and could add another shift of workers and build even more if needed.

Kurds remain biggest winners from US-led invasion of Iraq

IRBIL, Iraq (AP)—Complexes of McMansions, fast food restaurants, real estate offices and half-constructed high-rises line wide highways in Irbil, the seat of the semi-autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq.

Many members of the political and business elite live in a suburban gated community dubbed the American Village, where homes sell for as much as \$5 million, with lush gardens consuming more than a million liters of water a day in the summer.

The visible opulence is a far cry from 20 years ago. Back then, Irbil was a backwater provincial capital without even an airport.

That rapidly changed after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein. Analysts say that Iraqi Kurds—and particularly the Kurdish political class—were the biggest beneficiaries in a conflict that had few winners.

That's despite the fact that for ordinary Kurds, the benefits of the new order have

been tempered by corruption and power struggles between the two major Kurdish parties and between Irbil and Baghdad, the Iraqi capital.

In the wake of the invasion, much of Iraq fell into chaos, as occupying American forces fought an insurgency and as multiple political and sectarian communities vied to fill the power vacuum left in Baghdad. But the Kurds, seen as staunch allies of the Americans, strengthened their political position and courted foreign investments.

Irbil quickly grew into an oil-fueled boom town. Two years later, the city opened a new domestic commercial airport, constructed with Turkish funds, followed a few years after that by an international airport.

Traditionally, the "Kurdish narrative is one of victimhood and one of grievances," said Bilal Wahab, a fellow at the Washington Institute think tank. But in Iraq since 2003, "that is not the Kurdish story. The story is one of

power and empowerment."

With the Ottoman Empire's collapse after World War I, the Kurds were promised an independent homeland in the 1920 Treaty of Sevres. But the treaty was never ratified, and "Kurdistan" was carved up. Since then, there have been Kurdish rebellions in Iran, Iraq and Turkey, while in Syria, Kurds have clashed with Turkish-backed forces.

In Iraq, the Kurdish region won de facto self-rule in 1991, when the United States imposed a no-fly zone over it in response to Saddam's brutal repression of Kurdish uprisings.

"We had built our own institutions, the parliament, the government," said Hoshyar Zebari, a top official with the Kurdistan Democratic Party who served as foreign minister in Iraq's first post-Saddam government. "Also, we had our own civil war. But we overcame that," he said, referring to fighting between rival Kurdish factions in the mid-1990s.

Environment

World on 'thin ice' as UN climate report gives stark warning



1. Pakistani women wade through floodwaters as they take refuge in Shikarpur district of Sindh Province, of Pakistan, Sept. 2, 2022. 2. People walk through floodwaters after heavy rainfall in Hadeja, Nigeria, Sept. 19, 2022. 3. Displaced families, who fled their flood-hit homes, get relief aid distributed by soldiers of Pakistan rangers, in Dera Allahyar, in Jaffarabad, a district of southwestern Balochistan province, Sept. 17, 2022. 4. Family friend Tony McDavid walks through the wreckage of the beachfront home of Nina Lavigna, as friends help recover salvageable belongings after half of her house collapsed following beach erosion from Hurricane Nicole, Nov. 12, 2022, in Wilbur-By-The-Sea, Fla.

BERLIN (AP)—Humanity still has a chance, close to the last, to prevent the worst of climate change's future harms, a top United Nations panel of scientists said Monday.

But doing so requires quickly slashing nearly two-thirds of carbon pollution by 2035, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said. The United Nations chief said it more bluntly, calling for an end to new fossil fuel exploration and for rich countries to quit coal, oil and gas by 2040.

"Humanity is on thin ice—and that ice is melting fast," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "Our world needs climate action on all fronts—everything, everywhere, all at once."

Stepping up his pleas for action on fossil fuels, Guterres called for rich countries to accelerate their target for achieving net zero emissions to as early as 2040, and developing nations to aim for 2050—about a decade earlier than most current targets. He also called for them to stop using coal by 2030 and 2040, respectively, and ensure carbon-free electricity generation in the developed world by 2035, meaning no gas-fired power plants either.

That date is key because nations soon have to come up with goals for pollution reduction by 2035, according to the Paris climate agreement. After contentious debate, the U.N. science report approved Sunday con-

cluded that to stay under the warming limit set in Paris the world needs to cut 60% of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, compared with 2019, adding a new target not previously mentioned in six previous reports issued since 2018.

"The choices and actions implemented in this decade will have impacts for thousands of years," the report said, calling climate change "a threat to human well-being and planetary health."

"We are not on the right track but it's not too late," said report co-author and water scientist Aditi Mukherji. "Our intention is really a message of hope, and not that of doomsday."

With the world only a few tenths of a degree away from the globally accepted goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times, scientists stressed a sense of urgency. The goal was adopted as part of the 2015 Paris climate agreement and the world has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit).

This is likely the last warning the Nobel Peace Prize-winning collection of scientists will be able to make about the 1.5 mark because their next set of reports may well come after Earth has either passed the mark or is locked into exceeding it soon, several scientists, including report authors, told The Associated Press.

After 1.5 degrees "the risks are starting to pile on," said report co-

author Francis X. Johnson, a climate, land and policy scientist at the Stockholm Environment Institute. The report mentions "tipping points" around that temperature of species extinction, including coral reefs, irreversible melting of ice sheets and sea level rise of several meters (several yards).

"1.5 is a critical critical limit, particularly for small islands and mountain (communities) which depend on glaciers," said Mukherji.

"The window is closing if emissions are not reduced as quickly as possible," Johnson said in an interview. "Scientists are rather alarmed."

Many scientists, including at least three co-authors, said hitting 1.5 degrees is inevitable.

"We are pretty much locked into 1.5," said report co-author Malte Meinshausen, a climate scientist at the University of Melbourne in Australia. "There's very little way we will be able to avoid crossing 1.5 C sometime in the 2030s 'but the big issue is whether the temperature keeps rising from there or stabilizes."

Guterres insisted "the 1.5-degree limit is achievable." Science panel chief Hoesung Lee said so far the world is far off course.

If current consumption and production patterns continue, Lee said, "the global average 1.5 degrees temperature increase will be seen sometime in this decade."

Scientists emphasize that the

world or humanity won't end suddenly if Earth passes the 1.5 degree mark. Mukherji said "it's not as if it's a cliff that we all fall off." But an earlier IPCC report detailed how the harms—including even nastier extreme weather—are much worse beyond 1.5 degrees of warming.

"It is certainly prudent to be planning for a future that's warmer than 1.5 degrees," said IPCC report review editor Steven Rose, an economist at the Electric Power Research Institute in the United States.

If the world continues to use all the fossil fuel-powered infrastructure either existing now or proposed, Earth will warm at least 2 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, the report said.

Because the report is based on data from a few years ago, the calculations about fossil fuel projects already in the pipeline do not include the increase in coal and natural gas use after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It comes a week after the Biden Administration in the United States approved the huge Willow oil-drilling project in Alaska, which could produce up to 180,000 barrels of oil a day.

The report highlights the disparity between rich nations, which caused much of the problem because carbon dioxide emissions from industrialization stay in the air for more than a century, and poorer countries that get hit harder by extreme weather. Residents of poorer climate-vulnerable nations are "up to 15 times more likely to die in floods, droughts and storms," Lee said.

If the world is to achieve its climate goals, poorer countries need a

three-to-six times increase in financial help to adapt to a warmer world and switch to non-polluting energy, Lee said. Countries have made financial pledges and promises of a damage compensation fund.

Developed nations "are expected to speed up the fight against climate change and do their decarbonization much faster than developing countries like Brazil. However, this does not take away our responsibility to do our part," Brazil's climate change chief, Ana Toni, said. "It will be our populations in developing countries, which are more vulnerable."

The report offers hope if action is taken, using the word "opportunity" nine times in a 27-page summary. But that word is overshadowed by 94 uses of the word "risk."

"The pace and scale of what has been done so far and current plans are insufficient to tackle climate change," IPCC chief Lee said. "We are walking when we should be sprinting."

Lee said the panel doesn't tell countries what to do to limit worse warming, adding "it's up to each government to find the best solution."

"The solutions are at hand," U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris said in a conference call about wildfires. "So let that be an alarm that lets us know that we must act with haste."

"How many reports that chill us to the bone do we need to read before we make the changes required?" asked Tina Stege, climate envoy for Marshall Islands, which are vulnerable to rising seas. "These changes will require some sacrifice—but aren't they worth it when a liveable future on this planet is what is at stake?"

Life & Style

Gwyneth Paltrow's lawyer calls Utah ski collision story 'BS'

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Gwyneth Paltrow's lawyer called the story of a retired optometrist who is suing her over a 2016 ski collision "utter B.S." on Tuesday during the trial's opening day in Utah, where the actor-turned-lifestyle influencer appeared in court looking somber.

Paltrow and Terry Sanderson, the man suing her,



Paltrow

sat across from each other in a Park City courtroom as their attorneys gave opening statements that provided strikingly different accounts of the crash. Both described their clients as victims and blamed the other for the collision at Deer Valley, one of the country's most upscale ski resorts.

The two showed little emotion as attorneys questioned

their credibility and version of events on the first day of the trial, which is expected to last eight days. Sanderson's attorneys said that they plan to call Paltrow to the stand to testify on Friday, but they could do so earlier in the week depending on the other witnesses' availability.

Paltrow—wearing a cream-colored knit sweater, tweed harem pants and aviator-style reading glasses—shielded her face from

photographers using a blue "GP"-initialed notebook as she entered and exited the courtroom. Sanderson wore a gray suit and left halfway before witnesses began testifying.

Sanderson claims that Paltrow was cruising down the slopes so recklessly that they violently collided, leaving him on the ground as she and her entourage continued their descent down the skiers-only mountain known for its groomed runs, après-

ski champagne yurts and posh clientele.

"All skiers know that when they're skiing down the mountain, it's their responsibility to yield the right of way to skiers below them," Sanderson's attorney, Lawrence Buhler, told jurors, who—unlike those selected for most trials—walked into the courtroom smiling, likely because of their proximity to a major celebrity.

Buhler highlighted his client's military service record

and tried to appeal to the jury's sympathies—describing the broken ribs and brain trauma Sanderson sustained during and after the crash. Attempting to draw a contrast, Buhler described Paltrow as a wealthy, experienced skier who adopted a "So what?" attitude about the collision.

"She hires multiple ski instructors for her children, which allows them to skip the lines. Private instructors cost thousands of dollars per day," he said.

Tom Hanks named Harvard's 2023 commencement speaker

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Two-time Academy Award winning actor Tom Hanks was named the principal speaker at Harvard's commencement on May 25, the Ivy League university announced Tuesday.

Hanks, 66, has appeared in almost 100 films. Nominated for an Oscar six times, he won best actor for "Philadelphia" in 1993 and "Forrest Gump"

the following year.

Harvard President Lawrence Bacow called Hanks "a true master of his craft."

"In addition to his brilliance as an actor, Tom has demonstrated both an innate empathy and a deep understanding of the human condition," Bacow said in a statement. "He has contributed to our



Hanks

national culture and expanded our ability to appreciate stories and histories that have been previously unexamined."

Recent Harvard commencement speakers included former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, late civil rights activist and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, and filmmaker

Steven Spielberg.

A comedic actor early in his career, Hanks transitioned seamlessly to dramatic roles, from his breakout performance in 1988's comedy "Big" to "Saving Private Ryan," "Apollo 13," and "Captain Phillips." He voiced the character Woody in the "Toy Story" animated films and voiced several characters in 2004's "The Polar Express" animated film.

'John Wick' stars honor late co-star Lance Reddick

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishburne were among the "John Wick: Chapter 4" stars honoring Lance Reddick, their co-star who died unexpectedly last week, at the film's Los Angeles premiere.

"We lost our brother, and in a really sort of very shocking way. I think we're all still in



Reddick

shock. Life is," the visibly shaken Fishburne said, pausing briefly before continuing, "hard sometimes."

Many of those who worked on the film wore blue ribbons to honor Reddick, who was a prolific character actor with prominent roles in "The Wire," "Oz" and the "John Wick" film franchise.

"Just to be in his light and to get a chance to work with him, I'll cherish for the rest of my life," Reeves said. "He had such a passion for his work and his craft. He was gracious. He had a dignity to him and a presence."

Reddick, 60, died Friday in Los Angeles of natural causes, his publicist Mia Hansen said. No further details were provided.

Tributes have poured in for the actor, whose roles made him a beloved and recognizable star of television and films. He played Charon, the multi-skilled Continental Hotel concierge who is fond of Wick, an assassin played by Reeves. The latest installment arrives in theaters Friday.

"He's the goodness of this film. He was kind of, in many ways, the heart of the film because his character loved John Wick," Fishburne said.

'Winnie the Pooh' film pulled from cinemas in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP)—Public screenings of a slasher film that features Winnie the Pooh were scrapped abruptly in Hong Kong on Tuesday, sparking discussions over increasing censorship in the city.

Film distributor VII Pillars Entertainment announced on Facebook that the release of "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" on Thursday had been canceled with "great regret" in Hong Kong and neighboring Macao.

In an email reply to The Associated Press, the distributor said it was notified by cinemas that they could not show the film as scheduled, but it didn't know why. The cinema chains involved did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

For many residents, the Winnie the Pooh character is a

playful taunt of China's President Xi Jinping and Chinese censors in the past had briefly banned social media searches for the bear in the country. In 2018, the film "Christopher Robin," also featuring Winnie the Pooh, was reportedly denied a release in China.

The film being pulled in Hong Kong has prompted concern on social media over the territory's shrinking freedoms.

The movie was initially set to be shown in about 30 cinemas in Hong Kong, VII Pillars Entertainment wrote last week.

The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration said it had approved the film and arrangements by local cinemas to screen approved films "are the commercial decisions of the cinemas concerned." It refused to comment on such arrangements.

'Wonderful' relationship has become a nightmare

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship for five years. It started out wonderful, but now I'm having second thoughts. He keeps putting my kids down and telling me I'm a bad mother. It's so bad he has even put a knife to my throat. And, yes, he hits me.

I am not an angel, but I always stand up for him and have his back. However, I don't see him having mine. There's so much more I could say, but I am scared if he knew I was writing to you it would end up bad for me. I need help, but I don't know what to do. He has isolated me from my family and friends. Please help me.

LOST AND AFRAID IN THE EAST

DEAR LOST: The man you are involved with is a dangerous abuser. What you must do next, for the sake of yourself and your children, is quietly contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline by calling 1-800-799-7233 or visiting the hotline.org for help in formulating a safe escape plan.

It has been some time since I printed the Warning Signs of an Abuser. For anyone who hasn't seen this list, these are classic indicators. Read on:

(1) **PUSHES FOR QUICK INVOLVEMENT:** Comes on strong, claiming, "I've never felt loved like this by anyone." An abuser pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.

(2) **JEALOUS:** Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly; prevents you from going to work because "you might meet someone"; checks the mileage on your car.

(3) **CONTROLLING:** If you are late, interrogates you in-

tensively about whom you talked to and where you were; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to go anywhere or do anything.

(4) **UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS:** Expects you to be the perfect mate and meet his or her every need.

(5) **ISOLATION:** Tries to isolate you from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of "causing trouble." The abuser may deprive you of a phone or car, or try to prevent you from holding a job.

(6) **BLAMES OTHERS FOR PROBLEMS OR MISTAKES:** It's always someone else's fault if something goes wrong.

(7) **MAKES OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS:** The abuser says, "You make me angry" instead of "I am angry," or says, "You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you."

(8) **HYPERSENSITIVITY:** Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad. Rants about the injustice of things that are just a part of life.

(9) **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN:** Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also may expect children to do things that are far beyond their ability (whips a 3-year-old for wetting a diaper) or tease them until they cry. Sixty-five percent of abusers who beat their partners will also abuse children.

(10) **"PLAYFUL" USE OF FORCE DURING SEX:** Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will during sex; finds the idea of rape exciting.

(11) **VERBAL ABUSE:** Constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel things; degrades, curses, calls you ugly names.

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

This may also involve sleep deprivation, waking you with relentless verbal abuse.

(12) **RIGID ROLE OF DOMINANCE:** Expects you to serve, obey and remain at home.

(13) **SUDDEN MOOD SWINGS:** Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.

(14) **PAST BATTERING:** Admits to hitting a mate in the past, but says the person "made" him (or her) do it.

(15) **THREATS OF VIOLENCE:** Says things like, "I'll break your neck" or "I'll kill you," and then dismisses them with, "Everybody talks that way," or "I didn't really mean it."

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Calvin and Hobbes comic strip by Bill Waterson. Calvin is writing in his journal, and Hobbes is talking to him. Calvin says: "HISTORY WILL THANK ME FOR KEEPING THIS JOURNAL AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE." Hobbes says: "AS ONE OF THOSE RARE INDIVIDUALS DESTINED FOR TRUE GREATNESS, THIS RECORD OF MY THOUGHTS AND CONVICTIONS WILL PROVIDE INVALUABLE INSIGHT INTO BUDDING GENIUS." Calvin says: "THINK OF IT! A PRICELESS HISTORICAL DOCUMENT IN THE MAKING! WOW!" Hobbes says: "SO WHO ELSE SHOULD I ADD TO MY LIST OF TOTAL JERKS?" Calvin says: "WHO ELSE DO YOU EVEN KNOW?"

Garfield comic strip by Jim Davis. Garfield is sitting on a windowsill, looking out. He says: "SPRING..." and "SIGH..." and "TOO EARLY FOR THE ICE CREAM TRUCK, TOO LATE FOR THE HOT CHOCOLATE".

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Adam@home comic strip by Bryan Basset. Adam is talking to a girl. Adam says: "DAD SAID YOU CAN GET A KOMODO DRAGON??" The girl says: "YEAH, BUT I THINK HE WAS JOKING." Adam says: "WHY?" The girl says: "HE SAID ONLY IF I CALL THE DRAGON TONY." Adam says: "AND HE HAS TO WEAR A DR PEPPER SHIRT AND DRIVE AROUND IN A GOLF CART." The girl says: "I MEAN, HE COULD BE SERIOUS?" Adam says: "I KNOW. HE'S A RIDDLE, WRAPPED IN A DONUT, DUNKED IN COFFEE."

The Duplex comic strip by Glenn McCoy. Two men are talking. One says: "HERE WE ARE. JUST TWO GUNS ON THE PROWL." The other says: "IN THE WILD, TWO MALE ANIMALS WILL BATTLE, SOMETIMES TO THE DEATH, TO SEE WHICH ONE GETS THE FEMALE." The first man says: "WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?" The second man says: "WANNA THUMB WRESTLE?"

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle by Eugene Sheffer. The puzzle is a 15x15 grid. The clues are: ACROSS: 1 "Legally Blonde" (6), 5 Deity (4), 8 Bohemian (6), 12 Ache (4), 13 "Suits" network (6), 14 "Arbitrage" star (6), 15 Apple variety (6), 16 Medit. nation (6), 17 "Lucky Jim" author (6), 18 Guitarist (6), 20 Mando- lin's kin (6), 22 1996 Pfeiffer/ Clooney rom-com (6), 26 Rodeo rope (6), 29 Genetic letters (6), 30 Bill of sale (Abbr.) (6), 31 "By the power vested in..." (6), 32 Glitch (6), 33 Heredi- tary unit (6). DOWN: 34 Ultra- modernist (6), 35 River blocker (6), 36 Mini- plateaus (6), 37 "Waiting for Godot," e.g. (6), 40 Bath powder (6), 41 Over- turns (6), 45 "Oz" cast member (6), 47 Solo of "Star Wars" (6), 49 Tend (6), 50 Hodge- podge (6), 51 D (6), 52 Nevada city (6), 53 Existed (6), 54 Sault — Marie (6), 55 Cinch (6), 21 Actress (6), 23 Dowdy type (6), 24 "— Kar- enina" (6), 25 Saint (6), 26 Dryer (6), 27 From the top (6), 28 Blended beverage (6), 32 Cookie units (6), 33 Yellow- stone spouters (6), 35 Roman (6), 36 Atlas page (6), 38 Com- poser (6), 39 Fencing move (6), 42 Genesis garden (6), 43 Funny (6), 44 Halt (6), 45 High tennis shot (6), 46 Hearty brew (6), 48 Stern- ward (6). Solution time: 24 mins.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vanessa Morgan, 31; Michelle Monaghan, 47; Keri Russell, 47; Chaka Khan, 70.

Happy Birthday: Take the lead and be the one to start something new and exciting. An active life- style will keep you out of trouble and encourage you to focus on making headway. A passionate drive will make it impossible for anyone to stop you from setting new boundaries and exceeding your expectations. Make decisions based on emo- tions, intuition and what you stand to gain. Your numbers are 7, 13, 23, 29, 33, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Step out- side your comfort zone if it will help you get what you want. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans. Set your sights on your endgame and keep your dreams a secret. Maintain control and leave nothing to chance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Find your audience and make your voice heard. Showing enthusiasm, dedication and passion for something that matters to you will be contagious. Reach out and connect to people who share your sentiments.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Show your true colors and chase your dreams. Be upfront about your thoughts, feelings and intentions, and you will gain trust and respect. An emotional issue will resolve if you are willing to compromise.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pay more attention to the changes you want to make to yourself instead of trying to change oth- ers. Arguments will not help you mend what's broken, but heartfelt talks, honesty and solutions that

address the happiness of everyone involved will make a difference.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Lighten up. You have more going for you than you realize. Once you put your skills, knowledge and effort into what matters to you, everything will fall into place. Speak from the heart, bare your soul and find your zen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Open your mind and heart and something good will transpire. Connect with people offering insight into your next move. Live, learn and turn your life into something that excites you and helps you make your mark. Romance will enhance your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sort through any money issues with someone with whom you share expenses, debt or invest- ments. It will put your mind at ease. Pick up mo- mentum, get your house in order and pave the way to better relationships and a stress-free life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pull every- one together with suggestions that offer creative solutions and practical applica- tions. Set high standards and live by the rules, and you'll make a lasting impression on those you in- fluence. Love is heading your way, and a romantic gesture will improve your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take a rain check if someone offers something that makes you feel un- comfortable. It would help if you focused on what matters, not what others want you to do or think. Make your actions count, and be true to yourself.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a moment to reevaluate what's unfold- ing around you. Clear your schedule and make personal changes that will improve your state of mind and allow you to see your options. Refuse to jump on someone's bandwagon; create your own.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have the drive required to reach your goal. Re- fuse to let anyone get in your way or lead you astray. Protect your heart, health and financial well-being. An opportunity and financial gain look promising if you play your cards right.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Address your routine and choose a healthier life- style. Consider spending more time doing physical activities you enjoy and eating nourishing foods that will help you gain strength and boost your ego. It's a new day and a new you.

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, playful and spontaneous. You are competitive and strategic.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku puzzle grid. The grid is 9x9. The clues are: Row 1: 4, 9, 6, 7. Row 2: 5, 6, 7, 3. Row 3: 3, 8. Row 4: 5, 6, 9. Row 5: 1, 3, 7, 4. Row 6: 1, 7, 8. Row 7: 6, 8, 3, 5, 4. Row 8: 4, 7, 2, 9, 6, 3. Row 9: 9, 8.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Yesterday's Answer grid. The grid is 9x9. The clues are: Row 1: 1, 5, 8, 4, 3, 9, 2, 6, 7. Row 2: 6, 9, 4, 1, 2, 7, 8, 5, 3. Row 3: 2, 7, 3, 5, 8, 6, 1, 4, 9. Row 4: 4, 1, 7, 6, 5, 8, 9, 3, 2. Row 5: 3, 6, 9, 2, 7, 4, 5, 8, 1. Row 6: 5, 8, 2, 9, 1, 3, 6, 7, 4. Row 7: 9, 3, 5, 7, 6, 2, 4, 1, 8. Row 8: 8, 4, 6, 3, 9, 1, 7, 2, 5. Row 9: 7, 2, 1, 8, 4, 5, 3, 9, 6.

Difficulty: ★★★ 3-23 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — hori- zontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LISA MARIE PRESLEY (1968-2023) Solution: 7 letters

Wonderword puzzle grid. The grid is 15x15. The clues are: T M E M P H I S T I C K S V R, M O A L B U M S T O N E S I Y, C R I N P T E N N E S S E E D, O A O D R K E O U G H H D W D, N C G T I P S W H O M U R S A, C I O E S K D D O T E A G X D, E S N M C S N A W T V Y R N L, R U E A I O E N S E W E A A O, N M J F L B I N N H Y L M H G, D I S H L M Y I G E I M T N, I C W U A F E D C H R Y A I, R H E J R L E A V O I C E K, T A N K T V P R Y E L L O W N, Y E L N I F G E R O I V A S I, B L E S I A R P R I N C E S S.

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch- tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Ohtani fans Trout, Japan tops US 3-2 for WBC championship



MIAMI

(AP)—Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout had dreamed of this moment,

along with millions of fans throughout Japan and the United States: the two biggest stars on the planet, longtime teammates, facing each other at 60 feet, 6 inches, the world title at stake.

Of course, the count went full.

And then Ohtani got Trout to swing under a slider on the outside corner, sealing Japan's 3-2 win Tuesday night and its first World Baseball Classic title since 2009.

"This is the best moment in my life," Ohtani said through a translator.

Ohtani, the two-way star who has captivated fans across two continents, was voted MVP of the WBC after batting .435 with one homer, four doubles, eight RBIs and 10 walks while going 2-0 with a save and a 1.86 ERA on the mound, striking out 11 in 9 2/3 innings.

"I think every baseball fan wanted to see that. I've been answering questions about it for the last month-and-a-half," said Trout, Ohtani's Los Angeles Angels teammate since 2018.

"Did you think it was going to end in any other way?"

Watching the eighth and ninth innings unfold, Japan first baseman Kazuma Okamoto was in disbelief.

"I thought it was like a Manga," he said through an interpreter, referring to a Japanese comic book.

U.S. manager Mark DeRosa savored the matchup—except for the ending.

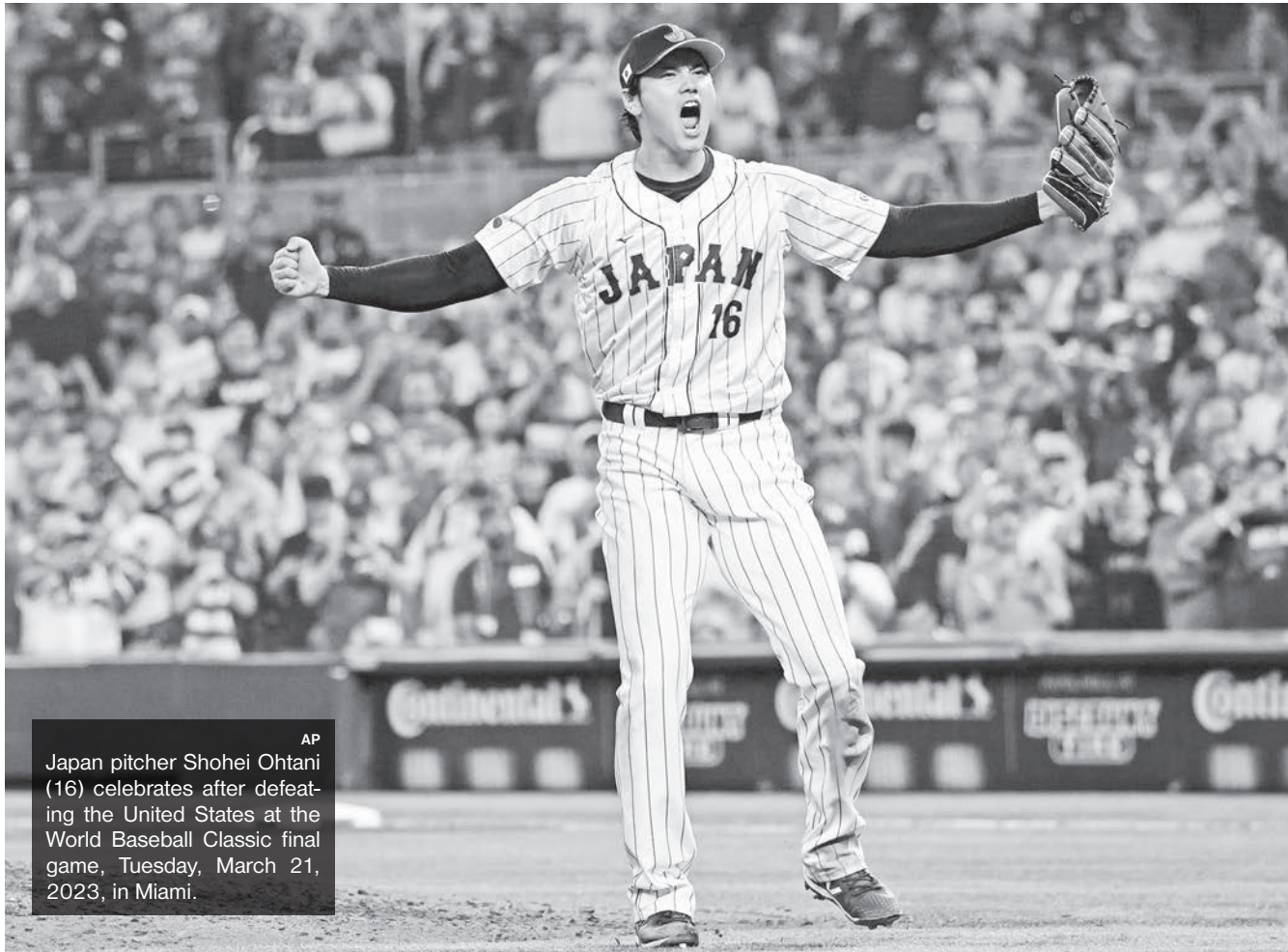
"I just would have liked to have seen Mike hit a 500-foot homer," he said.

Ohtani had given a pregame pep talk in Japan's clubhouse.

"Let's stop admiring them," he said, according to a Los Angeles Times translation of the video posted on the website Samurai Japan. "If you admire them, you can't surpass them. We came here to surpass them, to reach the top. For one day, let's throw away our admiration for them and just think about winning."

Japan then joined the Dominican Republic in 2013 as the only unbeaten champions of baseball's premier national team tournament. The Samurai Warriors went 7-0 and outscored opponents 56-18, reaching the final for the first time since winning the first two WBCs in 2006 and 2009. No other nation has won the title more than once.

Trea Turner put the U.S. ahead in the second against Shota Imanaga (1-0) with his fifth home run of the tournament, tying the WBC record



Japan pitcher Shohei Ohtani (16) celebrates after defeating the United States at the World Baseball Classic final game, Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in Miami.

set by South Korea's Seung Yuop Lee in 2006.

Munetaka Murakami tied the score on the first pitch of the bottom half off Merrill Kelly (0-1) driving an up fastball 432 feet into the right-field upper deck, a 115.1 mph bullet. Japan loaded the bases and Lars Nootbaar, the first non-Japanese-born player to appear for the Samurai Warriors, followed with a run-scoring groundout off Aaron Loup for a 2-1 lead.

Okamoto boosted the lead in the fourth when he sent a flat slider from Kyle Freeland over the wall in left-center for another solo homer. Kyle Schwarber pulled the Americans within a run when he went deep in the eighth off Yu Darvish.

Ohtani was Japan's designated hitter and first went to the bullpen ahead of the sixth inning. He returned to the dugout and beat out an infield single in the seventh

before again walking down the left-field line to Japan's bullpen and warming up for his third mound appearance of the tournament.

He walked big league batting champion Jeff McNeil to begin the ninth, then got six-time All-Star Mookie Betts to ground into a double play.

That brought up Trout, the U.S. captain, a 10-time All-Star and a three-time MVP.

"I saw him take a big deep breath to try and control his

emotions," DeRosa said. "I can't even imagine being in that moment, the two best players on the planet locking horns as teammates in that spot."

Ohtani started with a slider low, then got Trout to swing through a 100 mph fastball. Another fastball sailed outside and Trout missed a 99.8 mph pitch over the middle. A 101.6 offering, the fastest of Ohtani's 15 pitches, was low and way outside.

Ohtani stepped off the

mound and blew on his pitching hand. He went back to a offspeed option, a slider.

Trout grimaced after his futile swing, his 12th strikeout of a tournament in which he hit .296 with one homer and seven RBIs. Ohtani raised both arms and threw his glove, then his cap, as teammates mobbed him.

Ohtani got his second career save, the first since a 2016 playoff game with the Pacific League's Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters. He and Trout had hugged behind the batting cage during pregame workouts, then held their nation's flag while leading their teams toward home plate in single file during the introductions. Trout down the right-field line and Ohtani in left.

Several thousand fans had arrived hours early to watch Ohtani take batting practice and applauded when he hit a drive off the video board above the second deck in center.

"What he's doing in the game is what probably 90% of the guys in that clubhouse did in Little League or in youth tournaments, and he's able to pull it off on the biggest stages," DeRosa said. "He is a unicorn to the sport. I think other guys will try it, but I don't think they're going to do it to his level."

Japan gets \$3 million in prize money and the U.S. \$1.7 million. Half of each goes to players, the other half to the national baseball federation.

All-Stars of Team USA outmatched, outpitched in WBC final

MIAMI (AP)—As Trea Turner rounded the bases Tuesday night after hitting his fifth home run of the World Baseball Classic, the "M-V-P!" chants roared throughout loanDepot park.

Turner's tournament outing—tied for the most in a single WBC, with a grand slam—was a reminder of how just how stacked this United States team was.

But on a night when stars across the South Florida sports teams converged in the Miami Marlins' home ballpark—Bam Adebayo and Dwyane Wade of the Miami Heat, Jazz Chisolm Jr. of the Marlins and Xavien Howard and Jevon Holland of the Dolphins, to name a few—the stars on Team USA couldn't deliver a victory in the championship game.

It was only fitting that the matchup ended with a thrilling duel between two of the sport's best players, Los Angeles Angels teammates Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout. And Ohtani closed out

it, sending the United States home with a strikeout.

"It's so difficult to hold our lineup to two runs," said Team USA manager Mark DeRosa after Japan beat the U.S. 3-2. "I wouldn't have thought that going in regardless of who were facing."

Team USA's roster featured a galaxy of stars—Trout, Mookie Betts of the Dodgers, Paul Goldschmidt and Nolan Arenado of the St. Louis Cardinals, and plenty more.

But its pitching staff lacked the same marquee names.

AL Cy Young winner Justin Verlander and Los Angeles Dodgers left-hander Clayton Kershaw were a couple of many notable major league pitchers who opted out of the tournament. Kershaw, who just turned 35, pulled out of the event in February.

"There were some factors that were making it hard for me to play," Kershaw said then. "I tried to work it out on my own, tried to work it out with MLB, union, the

team. Everybody worked hard to try to make it work. Just wasn't able to."

The American hitters delivered all tournament.

Along with his five home runs, Turner had 11 RBIs, second only to Japan's Masataka Yoshida with 13. Betts and Arenado added 10 hits apiece, the most through the tournament.

Kyle Schwarber brought the U.S. within one run Tuesday with his second homer of the tournament, a hit off Japan's Yu Darvish that he sent 436 feet to right center.

"Position player-wise, this is a no-brainer," DeRosa said during group play. "They're going to take playoff ABs (at-bats) from jump ... From a pitching standpoint, they had to get going a little bit earlier and had to ramp it up a little bit earlier."

"But I think if this is going to go where it needs to go and can go that, yes, some of the major league clubs are going to have to be willing to be a little bit more, I don't know

the word I'm looking for, but OK mindset-wise with those guys playing."

The timing of the tournament, taking place in the middle of spring training when pitchers are typically ramping up for a 162-game schedule, left many MLB teams and pitchers not wanting to risk injury or fatigue ahead of the long season. That showed in the United States fielding lesser known names throughout the tournament.

For the title game, DeRosa went with Arizona Diamondbacks right-hander Merrill Kelly, who was pulled after 1 1/3 innings after he allowed three hits, a run and walked two with a strikeout.

"I hated pulling Merrill right there, and I know he wasn't happy about it," DeRosa said. "But we were fully loaded in the 'pen and I felt like we had to keep the game close in that situation."

Munetaka Murakami followed up his walk-off, two-run double in Monday's semifinal win over Mexico

by blasting Kelly's first-pitch 92.4 mph fastball into the upper deck in right field. The play gave Japan a 1-0 lead in the second.

In the fourth, Kazuma Okamoto homered off reliever Kyle Freeland to make it 3-1.

U.S. pitchers had a 4.20 ERA in seven games, allowed eight home runs and a tournament-high 59 hits.

Commissioner Rob Manfred said Tuesday that MLB has looked at moving the WBC to a different time, such as after the playoffs or in the middle of the season, among other things, to persuade more owners and general managers to lend their high-priced pitchers to the tournament.

"From a competitive perspective, I think the most important thing is we're going to need to continue to work, particularly with our clubs, about pitching," Manfred said. "Obviously, it's great the guys we've had, but I think that I'd like to see pitching staffs that are of the same quality as our position players."

Tatum scores 36 as Celtics beat Sabonis, Kings, 132-109



SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Jayson Tatum scored 36 points and the Boston Celtics ended a long road trip on a high note by beating the Sacramento Kings 132-109 on Tuesday night.

Boston bounced back from blowing a 19-point lead in Utah on Saturday night by knocking off one of the top teams in the Western Conference. It won four of six on the trip.

Jaylen Brown added 27 points and Derrick White scored 20 to help the Celtics open up a one-game lead over Philadelphia in the Atlantic Division.

Domantas Sabonis had 16 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists for the Kings, who lost consecutive games for the first time since Feb. 3-5. De'Aaron Fox scored 18 points.

Sacramento fell 1 1/2 games behind Memphis in the race for second place in the Western Conference. The Kings are trying to clinch their first playoff berth since 2006—the longest postseason drought in NBA history.

THUNDER 101, CLIPPERS 100

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clippers star Paul George got hurt in the fourth quarter of the team's loss to Shai



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) drives past Sacramento Kings guard Malik Monk during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Gilgeous-Alexander and the Thunder.

George went down hard under the Oklahoma City basket with 4:38 remaining. He lay on his back for several minutes before being helped to his feet. Supported by staff on either side, George headed to the locker room, appearing to barely be able to put any weight on his right leg.

There was no immediate update on his condition after

the game. Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said George was still being evaluated. He later left the arena on the back of a cart with his right leg extended.

George had 18 points, seven rebounds and five assists. His potential loss could prove costly to a team harboring hopes of winning its first NBA championship.

Gilgeous-Alexander scored 31 points against his former team. Jalen Williams added

20 points for the Thunder.

CAVALIERS 115, NETS 109

NEW YORK (AP)—Donovan Mitchell had five 3-pointers and one sensational slam dunk among his 31 points, and Cleveland held on for the road win.

Caris LeVert added 18 points for the Cavaliers in the opener of a two-game series. Cleveland led by only six af-

ter a competitive first half, but quickly blew it open in the third en route to its seventh win in nine games.

The Cavs opened a 24-point lead and Mitchell's slam over Yuta Watanabe came with the Nets desperately hoping to get back into it early in the fourth.

Day'Ron Sharpe had 20 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for the Nets, who lost their fourth straight game. Spencer Dinwiddie had 19 points and 11 assists.

The teams play again Thursday night to complete what could be a postseason preview

HAWKS 129, PISTONS 107

ATLANTA (AP)—Bogdan Bogdanovic sank three 3-pointers in a 16-0 run early in the second half that allowed Atlanta to extend its lead to double digits for the first time.

Trae Young had 30 points and 12 assists for the Hawks (36-36), who are eighth in the Eastern Conference standings.

The Hawks completed their first four-game season series sweep of the Pistons since the 1993-94 season.

Marvin Bagley III scored a season-high 31 points in Detroit's fourth straight loss. The NBA-worst Pistons (16-57) have lost 15 of 16.

PELICANS 119, SPURS 84

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—

Brandon Ingram scored 32 points, leading New Orleans to the runaway win.

Jonas Valanciunas had 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Pelicans, who led by as many as 36 points before closing out their second straight victory. Trey Murphy III scored 17, and CJ McCollum added 15 points.

Ingram scored 16 in the third quarter, when New Orleans widened a 25-point halftime lead to 31.

Sandro Mamukelashvili scored 20 points for the Spurs. Tre Jones and former Pelican Devonte' Graham each had 15.

MAGIC 122, WIZARDS 112

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Rookie Pablo Banchero had 18 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, sending the Magic to the victory.

Orlando won for the first time in eight games against Washington. Gary Harris scored 22 points for the Magic, and Franz Wagner had 20 points. Reserve guard Cole Anthony finished with 16 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 30 points for the Wizards, who lost for the sixth time in seven games. Bradley Beal had 16 points and seven assists before fouling out with 2:55 remaining.

NEW YORK (AP)—Willis Reed, who dramatically emerged from the locker room minutes before Game 7 of the 1970 NBA Finals to spark the New York Knicks to their first championship and create one of sports' most enduring examples of playing through pain, died Tuesday. He was 80.

Reed's death was announced by the National Basketball Retired Players Association, which confirmed it through his family. The cause was not released, but Reed had been in poor health recently and was unable to travel to New York when the Knicks honored the 50th anniversary of their 1973 NBA championship team during their game against New Orleans on Feb. 25.

The Knicks tweeted a photograph picturing Reed from behind walking onto the floor as his teammates were warming up for the 1970 finale, one of the most memorable moments in NBA and Madison Square Garden history.

"As we mourn, we will always strive to uphold the standards he left behind — the unmatched leadership, sacrifice and work ethic that personified him as a champion among champions," the team said. "His is a legacy that will live forever."

Willis Reed, leader on Knicks' 2 title teams, dies at 80

Nicknamed "The Captain," Reed was the undersized center and emotional leader on the Knicks' two NBA championship teams, with a soft shooting touch from the outside and a toughness to tussle with the era's superstar big men on the inside.

He was remembered Tuesday perhaps more for the manner he led the Knicks than how superbly he played for them.

"Willis Reed was the ultimate team player and consummate leader. My earliest and fondest memories of NBA basketball are of watching Willis, who embodied the winning spirit that defined the New York Knicks' championship teams in the early 1970s," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "He played the game with remarkable passion and determination, and his inspiring comeback in Game 7 of the 1970 NBA Finals remains one of the most iconic moments in all of sports."

Reed's accomplishments — seven All-Star selections, two NBA Finals MVP awards among them — would have warranted Hall of Fame induction by themselves. During the 1969-70 season, he became the first player to sweep the MVP

awards for the regular season, All-Star Game and NBA Finals.

But his spot in history was secured simply by walking onto the floor on the final night of that season.

Reed had injured a thigh muscle in Game 5 of the series between the Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers, tumbling to the court in pain. He sat out Game 6 as counterpart Wilt Chamberlain had 45 points and 27 rebounds in a Lakers romp that forced a deciding game at Madison Square Garden.

Reed's status was unknown even to his Knicks teammates as he continued getting treatment until shortly before Game 7. Both teams were warming up when Reed came out of the tunnel, fans rising and roaring when they saw him emerge from the tunnel leading to the locker room.

"And here comes Willis and the crowd is going wild," radio announcer Marv Albert said.

The Lakers stopped to watch Reed, who made two quick jump shots in the early minutes of the game, running back down the court after both with a noticeable limp. He wouldn't score again but the Knicks didn't need it, with their cap-

tain's return and Walt Frazier's 36 points and 19 assists energizing them to a 113-99 romp and their first NBA title.

Frazier's performance was one of the finest ever in a deciding game, but it was forever a footnote to Reed's return. In 2006, to coincide with the NBA's 60th anniversary, it finished third in voting of the league's 60 greatest playoff moments, behind Michael Jordan's championship-winning jumper for his sixth title in 1998 and Magic Johnson ending his rookie season by filling in for Kareem Abdul-Jabbar at center in Game 6 of the 1980 finals to lead the Lakers to a championship.

Long afterward, a player's return from injury has sometimes compared to Reed, such as when Boston's Paul Pierce was carried off the floor with a knee injury in Game 1 of the 2008 NBA Finals against Los Angeles before quickly returning. But Phil Jackson, a teammate of Reed's and then Lakers coach, dismissed that because of how serious Reed's injury was.

"If I'm not mistaken, I think Willis Reed missed a whole half and three-quarters almost of a game and literally had to

have a shot — a horse shot, three or four of them — in his thigh to come back out and play," Jackson said.

Reed wouldn't be able to recover so quickly from injuries in the coming years. He was limited to just 11 games in 1971-72 but came back strong the next season to spark the Knicks to a second title in what was his last full season.

Though his return always made the '70 title the more celebrated one, it was the '72-73 squad, having been fortified by Hall of Famers Earl Monroe and Jerry Lucas, that stood out to Reed.

"That, to me, in my mind was the best team," he said during its 40th anniversary celebration.

Reed would play only 19 games in 1973-74 before retiring because of a knee injury after just 10 seasons.

That was long enough to collect more than 12,000 points and 8,400 rebounds, both of which still rank in the top three on the Knicks' career lists.

He had a successful post-playing career as a coach and executive, with 76ers coach Doc Rivers recalling playing for Atlanta when Reed was an assistant coach.

"He was simply a great person, A man!!! A leader!!! A Winner!!!" Rivers tweeted.

Willis Reed was born June 25, 1942, in Hico, Louisiana. He stayed in his home state for his college career, leading Grambling State to the 1961 NAIA championship and a third-place finish in 1963. The school retired his number and named its court after Reed in 2022.

A second-round pick in 1964, he quickly proved that standing only 6-foot-9 wouldn't keep him from becoming one of the league's top centers. He was voted Rookie of the Year and earned the first of his seven straight All-Star selections.

Reed was the anchor as the Knicks became one of the best teams in the NBA, with Hall of Famers such as Frazier, Bill Bradley and Dave DeBusschere.

Reed provided them with 18.7 points and 12.9 rebounds for his career, along with plenty of toughness. An ESPN documentary in 2014 on those Knicks showed footage of a 1966 fight in a game against the Lakers in which Reed appeared to throw punches at multiple opponents, with Jackson noting that it appeared Reed "decimated this team."

Kanoa atop women's soccer, MPU FC wins in MSL 2

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Kanoa Football Club is on top of the Flores-Pée Luwal Division of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League heading into Week 6 with a four win and one loss record, while MP United FC won against Shirley's FC 2 in the 2023 Spring Marianas Soccer League 2.

Kanoa's most recent win was against Matansa FC, 1-0, last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville; MPU FC won, 6-3 against Shirley's FC 2 last Friday.

Jane Malabanan sprinted to the net just a couple of

minutes in for the only goal of the game. Matansa was silent through the whole afternoon as none of their attempts at the goal stuck.

MPU FC's Gaige Porras made a beeline as soon as he had the ball and bagged the first goal just two minutes in. Two more goals were made by MPU before Shirley's Angie Ito replied for a 3-1 game.

It was all quiet on the western front until Shirley's Josephine Cardelle closed the lead by one, 3-2. However, MPU returned the favor for another goal in the 60th minute, then in the 70th minute, then the last goal in the 77th minute.

Shirley's only replied once more, but it was all for nought as time ran out.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this file photo, Kanoa Football Club players Jenny Lee, right, and Jane Malabanan chase the ball during one of their games in the Flores-Pée Luwal Division of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League held at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

DOVE WOMEN'S LEAGUE MP United FC slipped past Paire FC, 2-1.

Moriah Sablan whizzed past

the goalie five minutes in and it went radio silent after that. Then, teammate Michelle Ann Masga fired at the net for the

second goal in the 44th minute.

When it seemed like Paire wouldn't put up much of a fight, Phoenix Gross managed to snag a goal in the 58th minute. However, it was too little too late as the shot clock ticked its final tock.

The Southern United FC-Tan Holdings game ended with the former victorious, 1-0.

Keisha Deleon Guerrero scraped the net at the 8th minute and that was all she wrote for the rest of the game.

MSL 2

On Sunday, the Women's Development Team blanked Shirley's FC 1, 4-0. Goals were made by Allyssa Angeles, Pia Ngewakl, Irish Pag-arao, and Jannah Casarino.

In other results last Sunday, Tan Holdings defeated Hana FC, 5-1.

Mark Patubo and Ronnel Ocanada scored double goals each while Reginal Pascual provided the fifth goal. Scott Kim scored the only goal for Hana in the 87th minute.

And last Friday, Chang Bai Hu defeated Matansa FC, 1-0, courtesy of Li Xiong Zhe.

MSL 1

Eleven Tiger edged Paire FC, 2-1. Jack Unsa and Ariel Narvaez scored the team's two goals while Trey Dunn scored the lone goal for Paire.

Then, Kanoa FC and MPU FC ended their game in a draw, 1-1. Andrew Omelau scored for Kanoa and Casey Chambers goaled for MPU.

Momma Charo smacks Tutturamz, 16-14

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Momma Charo gave the Tutturamz a good smacking with a 16-14 win in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

Tutturamz led in the first couple of innings, 4-0, with a lead off home run by Jack Cepeda and as pitcher Henry Reyes put in the work for easy back-to-back out up and down the lineup.

But in the third inning, Momma Charo awoke from their slumber and by the time Reyes stopped the bleeding, eight runs scored—on account of some fielding errors by Tutturamz, for an 8-5 game.

Tutturamz were silenced by Momma Charo pitcher Leo Bo-



LEIGH GASES

Tutturamz's Chris Sablan warms up in the batter's box during their game against Momma Charo in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

bai and could only score three runs in two innings—and by the last inning, it was a 11-7 game

in favor of the latter.

The lead stretched further away from Tutturamz's grasp as Momma Charo batters brought in five more runs, thanks to multiple base hits by top of the lineup batters Barry Maratita, Chico Ilo, J.J. Laniyo, and Joe Kapileo.

With the last at-bat given to Tutturamz, they managed to bring in seven runs, but it was not enough as the last batters failed to deliver the tie-breaking or winning runs.

Man Amigos 18, Aimeliik 1 Time 9

Man Amigos dominated Aimeliik 1 Time, 18-9, for their second win of the league.

Aimeliik wasn't going down without a fight bringing in four runs in the first inning, but the Amigos returned the favor and more, as multiple doubles earned them a 6-4 lead heading

into the third inning.

Aimeliik's Taylor Germance rounded the bases as he nipped the ball for a two-run inning, but the rest of the lineup was immediately shut down by Amigos pitcher Eric Palacios.

Then, Man Amigos' Manny Sablan—recent inductee into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame—pushed the lead even more with a solo home run, followed by a big two-run home run by Joey Dela Cruz, for a 9-6 game.

Sablan and Dela Cruz were on the same wavelength that day as both of them hit one more home run each and by the time Aimeliik pitcher Ken Kaipat could recuperate, the Man Amigos were too far off into the lead for a comeback.

Hagu La'mun 15, Wazzup 7

Hagu La'mun drowned out Wazzup, 15-7.

Wazzup scored in only three out of seven innings as Hagu

La'mun always had the upper hand. Superb pitching from John Acosta and his support of a tight defense allowed Wazzup only a few chances on base.

Joe Lizama nicked the ball for the only home run against Acosta but there was not enough firepower from the rest of his teammates.

Two home runs were made by Hagu La'mun's Joe Celis and Dennis Cruz in the same inning with four runs brought in. Then, five runs scored in the fourth inning thanks to base hit after base hit from the bottom to the top of the lineup.

The game ended as Wazzup said goodbye when they couldn't score any more runs in the last inning.

Tokahao 13, Peleliu 3

Tokahao reduced Peleliu to just three runs, 13-3, in a mercy run-

ruled game.

Peleliu's runs came only in the last couple of innings and that was it as almost unhittable pitches came from the hand of Tokahao's George David.

Tokahao's offense was a juxtaposition to Peleliu as three home runs came from the bats of Robert Bansil, Jojo Attao, and David himself.

Redmen 7, Asahi 1

The Redmen squashed Asahi, 7-1.

Runs trickled in slowly for the Redmen but drove one in each inning until the fifth inning saw a three run home run by Tony Pangelinan.

Asahi were in a drunken stupor the whole game as they couldn't quite catch a good break and fell, as only Darwin Masaharu brought in their only run in the fifth inning.

OL'ACES

From Page 20

points of Tony Kim.

In the nightcap, Jay Palmes made 1 out of 2 free throws with less than 7 seconds remaining that allowed K2 Ballerz to escape powerhouse New Chang Ming Market, 67-65.

Down by 1 with time running down, New Chang Ming Market forward Rodel Pastrano intentionally fouled Palmes, who made the first before missing the second.

New Changming Market then went empty-handed in their final offensive play to go down in defeat.

Frankie Satur shone all game long for the Kagman team with 22 points, while Jack Aranda and Shane Deleon Guerrero fired 15 and 14 points, respectively, in the setback.

In the rather lengthy opening ceremony before the twinbill, reigning Gandang Pinay winner Kriselle Drilon of Puerto Rico Bento and Evan Cielo Doca of JSN Construction were adjudged best muse in the open and masters divisions, respectively.

For best uniform, Puerto Rico Bento claimed a double victory on opening day by topping the open division, while RNV Construction was the winner in the masters.

SUNDAY First Game

Ol'Aces 89 – F. Pelisamen 39, B. Pelisamen 21, Libuw 10, Rengul 6, Rangamar 5, Joab 4, Mendiola 2, Tudela 2.

Blue Eagle/Pacific Express 72 – Javier 22, Ashburn 12, Reign 11, Francisco 11, Cabanas 6, Estolas 3, Morales 3, Dayrit 2, Saplan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-14, 50-34, 73-53, 89-72.

Second Game

Puerto Rico Bento 112 – Foronda 23, Santos 23, Mintac 22, Bayking 14, Dela Cruz 11, Galang 6, Reyes 4, Cristobal 4.

Susan's Catering 90 – Genese 27, Padayao 16, Torres 15, Bernardo 10, Duenas 5, Gariguez 4, Castillo 4, Capalad 4, Camacho 3, Macaraig 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-20, 62-30, 77-60, 112-90.

TUESDAY First Game

Ol'Aces 107 – Air. Atan 23, Schmidt 18, Lizama 15, Basa 12, Kabiriel Vice 6, Onopwy 6, Pelisamen 6, Brungard 6, Fitial 4, Aif. Atan 3, Diaz 3, Barcinas 2.

Lakay 95 – Kim 22, Mendiola 21, Gaviola 17, Escano 15, Poksu 12, Malinay 10.

Scoring by quarters: 29-19, 49-44, 91-70, 107-95.

Second Game

K2 Ballerz 67 – Satur 22, Mamis 9, Palmes 8, Babauta

8, Satur 7, Mariano 6, Taiting-fong 3, Sablan 2, Kaipat 2.

New Chang Ming Market 65 – Aranda 15, Deleon Guerrero 15, Pastrana 8, Castro 8, Montes 4, Almario 3, Palacios 3, Camacho 3, Brennan 3, Gontar 2, Flores 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-10, 28-32, 47-50, 67-65.

SIBLINGS

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Racing Team Pokka (MAR-PAC), Inas Kitchen, YCO True Value Hardware, and House Speaker Edmund Vilagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Billie has so far totaled 50 points while making victory laps in the January, February, and now March editions of the race.

Corry, for his part, topped the Intermediate Class with another sweep of both heats last Sunday. It's also the third straight month that the

18-year-old finished with perfect scores in the division.

Coming in second to Corry is Aric Cruz with his 44 points, while third was Henry Camacho Jr. with 40 points.

The elder Pangelinan said he's happy with his and his sister's performance in the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race this far.

"My thoughts so far have been just proud, not only of myself but my little sister as well, she has become such an amazing rider and I couldn't be any more proud."

He said race conditions were also optimum last Sun-

day as "the track was good, it was smooth and less rocky which made it a lot easier to navigate the track."

Corry dedicated his March victory to his girlfriend, Nevaeh Cruz, as well as thanked his sponsors, namely, the ERICCO Racing Team, Pokka (MAR-PAC), Inas kitchen, YCO True Value Hardware, and House Speaker Edmund Vilagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Results of the other divisions of the March MRA race will be published in the following issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



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Trout, Japan tops
US 3-2 for WBC
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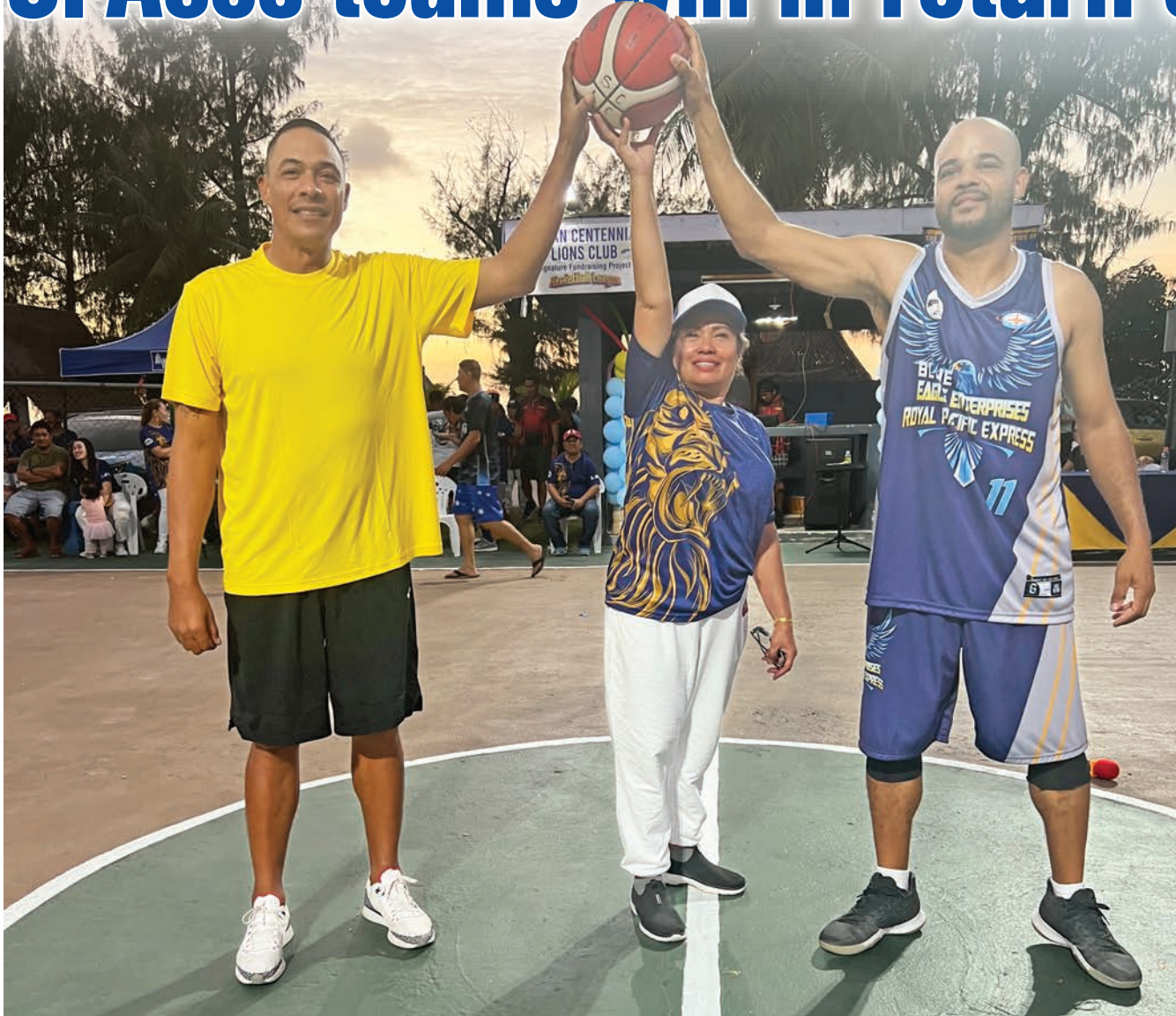
Kanoa atop
women's soccer,
MPU FC wins in
MSL 2
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ol'Aces teams win in return of SCLC caging



By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ol'Aces were the kings of court last Sunday and Tuesday when their masters and open teams defeated separate rivals at the start of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Club Basketball League at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Playing in the opener, Ol'Aces made mincemeat of Blue Eagles/Pacific Express, 89-72, in the masters division. Brothers Freddie and Ben Pelisamen took turns punishing Blue Eagles/Pacific Express' defenders en route to scoring 39 points and 21 points, respectively, to pace the Oleai team.

Forward Joel Javier led Blue Eagles/Pacific Express in a losing cause with 22 points.

In the second game, Puerto Rico Bento got the better of Susan's Catering, 112-90, in the first game of the open division.

Like Ol'Aces against Blue Eagles/Pacific Express, Puerto Rico Bento jumped the gun on Susan's Catering from the

get-go and never looked back and was led by three 20-point scorers—Daryl Foranda with 24, Coby Santos with 23, and Mark Mintac with 22. Karl Angelo Genese was the game's high-point man with 27 points for Susan's Catering.

Ol'Aces' open division team followed the footsteps of its older brethren by topping Lakay, 107-95, in the first game last Tuesday.

Marianas High School standout Airson Atan led the way for Ol'Aces with 23 points, while former national team players Douglas Schmidt, Jack Lizama, and Preston Basa added 18, 15, and 12 points, respectively.

Lakay was paced by the 23
See OL'ACES on Page 19



Saipan Centennial Lions Club president Marie Javier does the ceremonial jump ball between Ol'Aces' Dennis Mendiola, left, and Blue Eagle/Pacific Express' Andrew Ashburn during the opening of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Club Basketball League last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Jeon places first in Women's Flight



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Me Ae Jeon chips in from the green in the Ladies Flight of the 2023 NMC Open Golf Tournament last Sunday at the Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort.



round score of 157. She struggled on Day 1 of the fundraising tournament for the CNMI's lone community college with an 83 before returning with the vengeance on Day 2 with an excellent 74.

She said golf conditions in this year's NMC Golf Open wasn't that bad and winning the Ladies Flight was not really a surprise despite it being a two-round event.

The hardest hole was the 8th on Day 2 where she double bogeyed.

Jeon, who has been playing golf the past 18 years, also previously hoisted the Ladies Flight tiaras in the Tournament of Champions, HANMI Golf Tournament, and other minor golf tournaments.

Jacot, meanwhile, finished with a 158 following twin 79s in both playing dates. Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games

See JEON on Page 19

Bay Golf & Resort.

The 63-year-old tour company manager nipped Guam youngster Tyanna Jacot by a stroke to follow her victories in the same competition in 2018 and 2019.

Jeon finished with a two-

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Veteran golfer Me Ae Jeon won her third Ladies Flight championship in the 2023 NMC Open Golf Tournament last Sunday at the Lao Lao

Siblings sweep first 3 races

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Siblings Billie Inabo and Corry Pangelinan were perfect in the first three editions of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race after winning the Mini II Class and Intermediate Class, respectively, last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track

Billie topped her division with yet another 50-piece, followed by her former Powerpuff Girls Class rivals Nanako Celis and T.J. Ferrer

with 41 points each.

"Racing the Minis II has always been fun since I've started racing in the class. I will try my best to improve my performance, in hopes that it brings more opportunities for me in the future!" said Billie.

As for the track conditions, the 13-year-old DanDan Middle School student said it was a little slippery and dry.

"But it was still fun to ride

on. It brought a few obstacles from the uneven parts of the track and some loose dirt, but it made it more interesting. The weather was actually really sunny and bright, but I did wish that it would have rained a little for a tacky track," she said.

She dedicated her win to her family, most especially her uncles, Ponce and Tiny, and auntie Merissa as well as her sponsors—ERICCO

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TISHA FERRER

Billie Inabo, left, and Corry Pangelinan in action in the Mini II Class and Intermediate Class, respectively, of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.